You're my Pet

2

Yayoi Ogawa

—2—

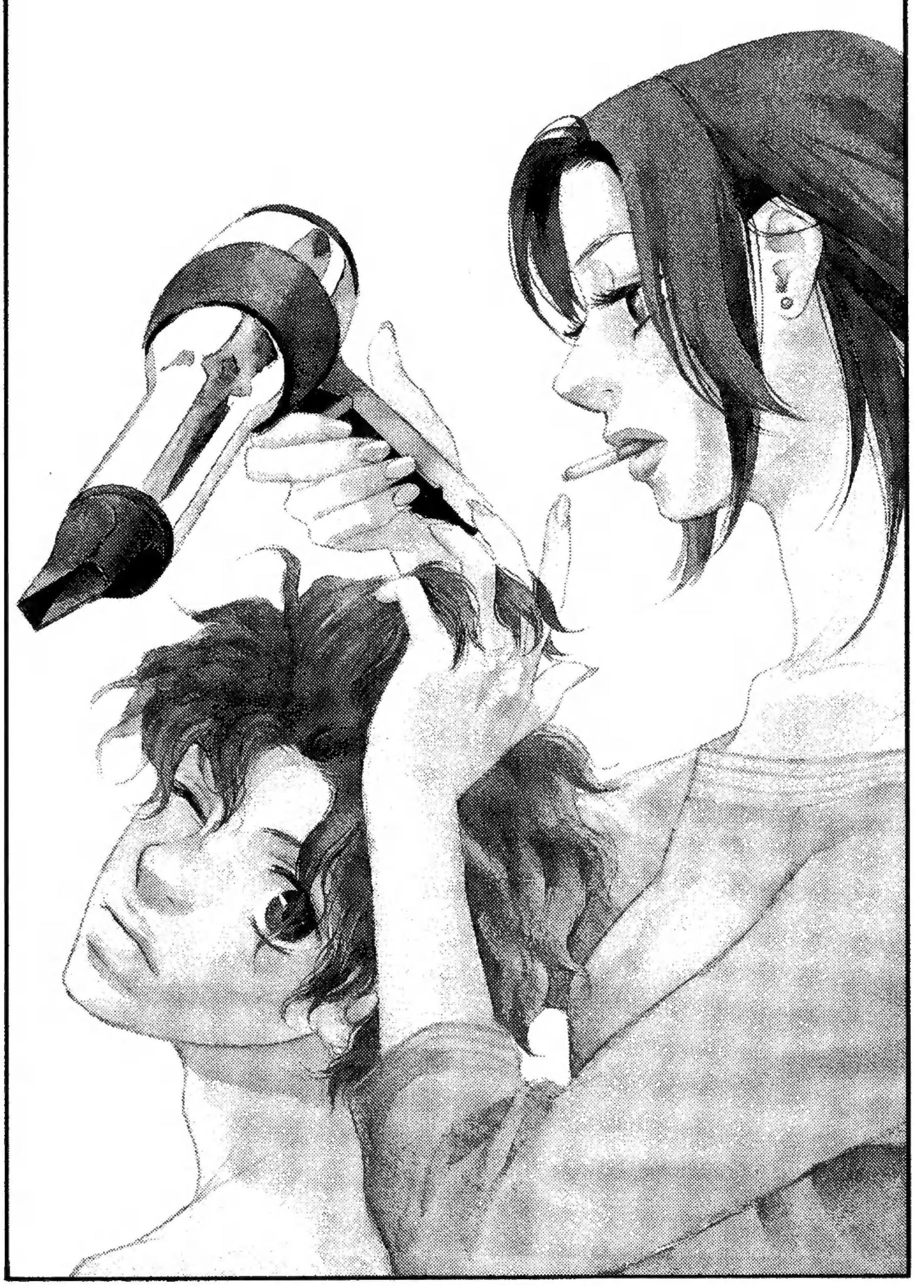
YAYOI OGAWA

小川彌生

You're My Pet

BY YAYOI OGAWA

VOL. 2



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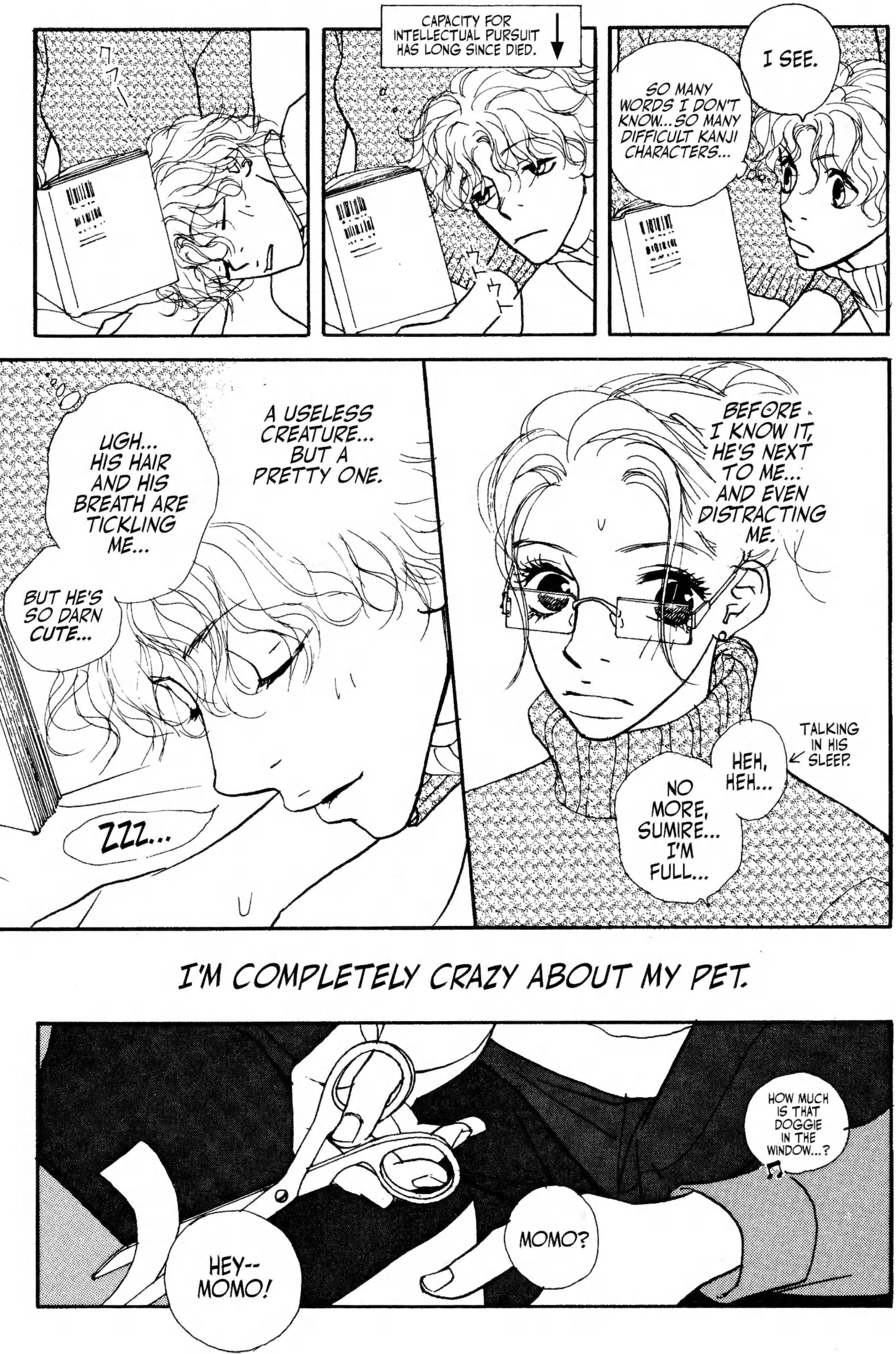
RULE 5:
CHRISTMAS EVE AND HOW TO SPEND IT

SO I'M LIVING WITH THIS LADY RIGHT NOW.
SHE TAKES CARE OF ME AND GIVES ME A PLACE TO SLEEP. SHE EVEN FEEDS ME.
AND IN RETURN, OF COURSE, SHE GETS TO DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS WITH ME. WHY, YOU ASK?
'CAUSE I'M HER PET.
OKAY... YOUR NAME IS...MOMO.
THAT'S WHAT I USED TO CALL MY DOG.
I MEAN, HOW CAN I NOT LOVE A MISTRESS WHO WOULD GIVE ME SUCH A FLATTERING NAME?

I STILL ENJOY WATCHING TV WITH MY MISTRESS IN MY REGULAR SPOT-- HER LAP.
MMM... THIS IS THE LIFE...!
RRRR
HELLO?
BUT EVER SINCE MY MISTRESS GOT A NEW BOYFRIEND...
...I'VE BEEN A BIT... UNHAPPY.
UH, NO--NOT AT ALL.
JUST WATCHING TV.

I KEEP A BOY AS MY PET.
MY CO-WORKERS AT THE PAPER THINK I HAVE A CAT.
HAS MOMO-CHAN BEEN DOING ALL RIGHT LATELY?
THEN AGAIN, MY BOYFRIEND THINKS I HAVE A DOG...
GOT THESE FOR MOMO-CHAN!
PET SHOP SANTA
MOMO ISN'T INTIMIDATED BY ME, EVEN THOUGH HE'S SHORTER, LESS EDUCATED AND MAKES LESS MONEY THAN I DO.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S JUST A PET.
WHATCHA READING, SUMIRE?
THEORIES OF JOURNALISM.

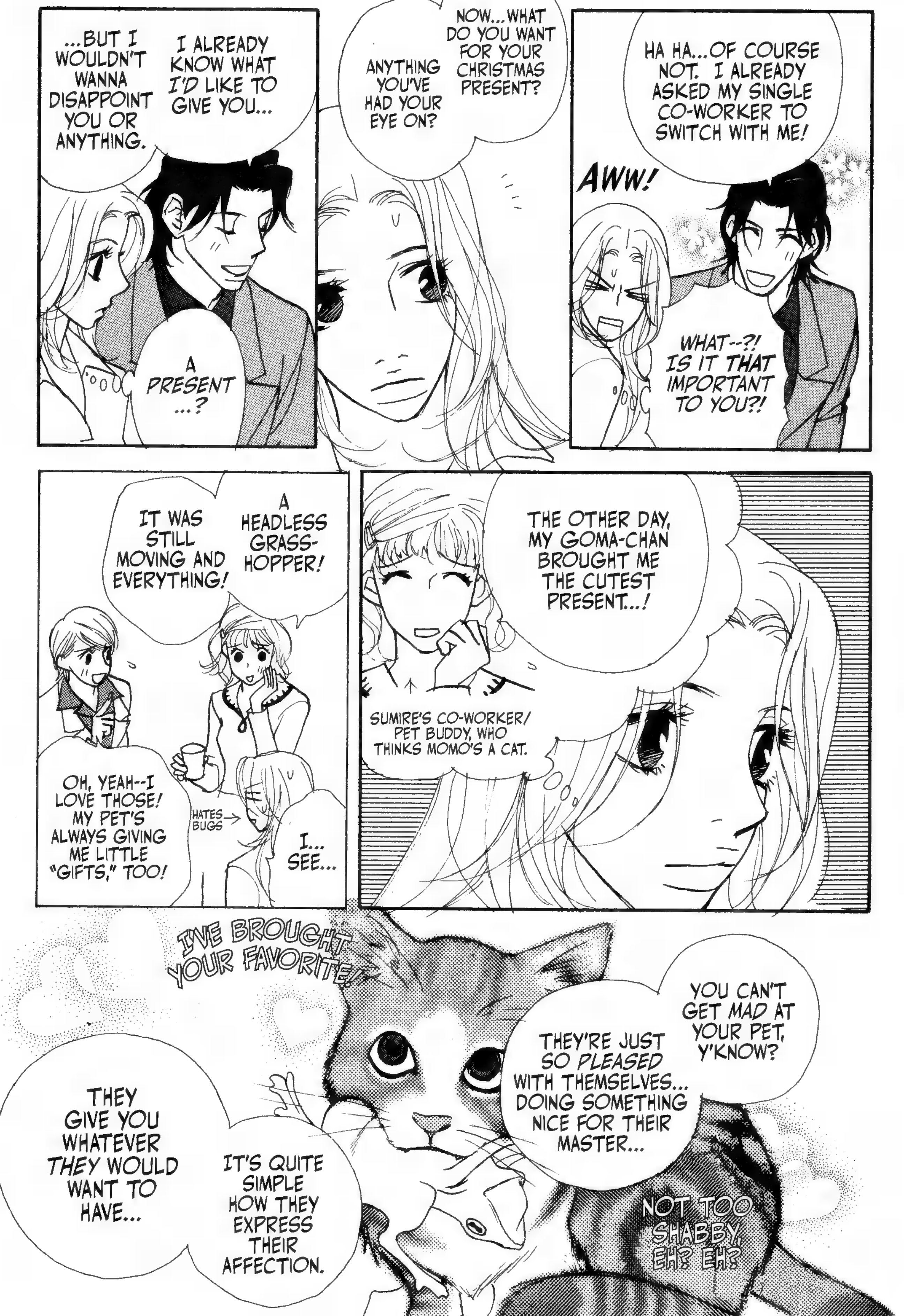


CAPACITY FOR INTELLECTUAL PURSUIT HAS LONG SINCE DIED.
I SEE.
SO MANY WORDS I DON'T KNOW...SO MANY DIFFICULT KANJI CHARACTERS...
BEFORE I KNOW IT, HE'S NEXT TO ME... AND EVEN DISTRACTING ME.
A USELESS CREATURE... BUT A PRETTY ONE.
UGH... HIS HAIR AND HIS BREATH ARE TICKLING ME...
BUT HE'S SO DARN CUTE...
ZZZ...
TALKING IN HIS SLEEP.
HEH, HEH...
NO MORE, SUMIRE... I'M FULL...
I'M COMPLETELY CRAZY ABOUT MY PET.
HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW...?
MOMO?
HEY-- MOMO!

STOP SCRATCHING YOUR HEAD WITH YOUR FOOT!
I'M STARTING TO THINK MAYBE I REALLY DO HAVE A DOG.
NOT TO MENTION IT'S CREEPY AS HELL.
*DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME-- OR ANYWHERE.
HUH?
BALLET DANCER
BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS?
MAKING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.
BUT I SKIPPED MY CLASS TODAY.
I DON'T CARE... STOP IT!
CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON, Y'KNOW.
SOMEONE HAS TO DECORATE THIS INELEGANT APARTMENT.
YAMADA PASTE
WAIT A SECOND. YOU MEAN, HERE?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I DON'T CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!
DO YOU THINK I'M RELIGIOUS OR CHRISTIAN OR SOMETHING?
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, INELEGANT?
DON'T BE SILLY.
IF YOU'RE NOT A CHRISTIAN, STEP ON THIS PICTURE!!
Kiyoshi Higuchi
HUH?
OH--I CAN'T DO IT!
*In the Edo era, when Christian religion had been forbidden, people had to trample on a picture to prove they were not Christian.
LOOK...I JUST DON'T HAVE VERY GOOD MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS, OKAY?

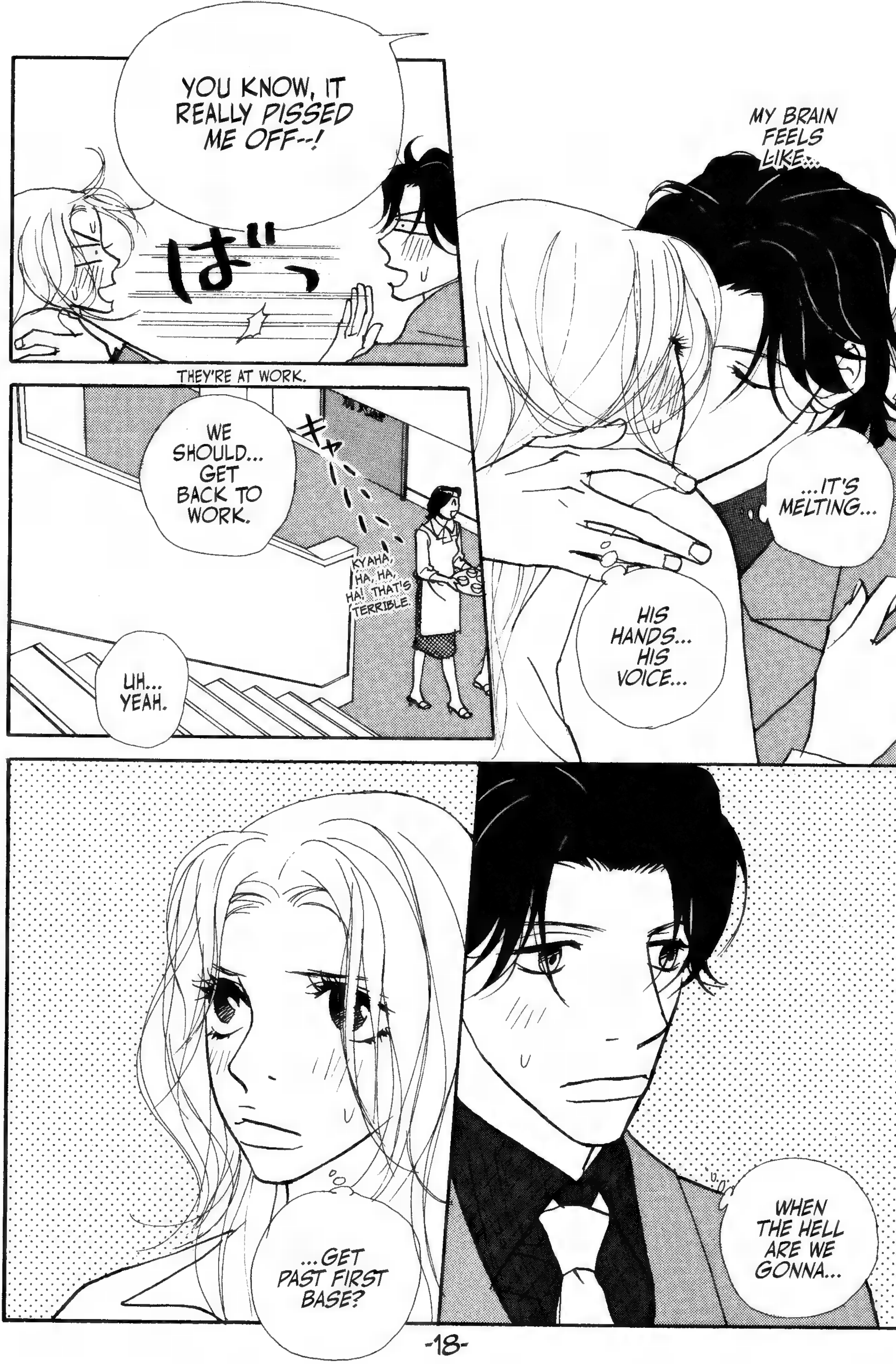
MY PARENTS DIDN'T GET ALONG, AND MY FAMILY NEVER GOT TOGETHER AT ALL.
MY GRANDPA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DID ANYTHING...AND HE JUST SENT ME A STUDENT HANDBOOK EACH YEAR.
WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY FIRST DATE TRIED TO TAKE ME TO A LOVE HOTEL.
THEN THERE WAS THIS *OTHER* WEIRD BOYFRIEND WHO ASKED ME, "IS IT OKAY IF WE HAVE ANAL SEX? I MEAN, IT *IS* CHRISTMAS, AFTER ALL..."
TH-THAT'S REALLY TERRIBLE.
AND THIS OTHER TIME...WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
MY DAD TOOK ME TO HIS COMPANY PRESIDENT'S HOUSE FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY. I WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT THAT.
IT WAS AT THIS HUGE WESTERN-STYLE MANSION...WITH A HUGE CHRISTMAS TREE.
THE PRESIDENT'S SON WAS LIKE A *PRINCE*.
THERE WAS THIS RUBY RING HIDDEN IN ONE OF THE PIECES OF CAKE THEY WERE HANDING OUT...
...AND WHOEVER GOT THE RING GOT TO DANCE WITH HIM.
AND *I* WAS THE ONE WHO GOT IT! I WAS SO EXCITED...
BUT OF COURSE, EVERYONE ELSE KNEW IT WAS JUST A GAME.
THE *REAL* RING WAS ALREADY GOING TO HIS FIANCÉE...

...AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW.
I'LL NEVER FORGET MY EXCITEMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NIGHT...
THAT'S WHY WE DON'T CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.
SO THERE.
AWW...I'D PREPARED A PARLOR TRICK AND EVERYTHING!
REALLY...
YOU'RE JUST A KID LOOKING FOR ANY EXCUSE TO PARTY.
DAMN IT.
SO...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FOR CHRISTMAS EVE?
I COULD JUST MAKE A RESERVATION AT SOME NICE RESTAURANT WITH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW.
OR...WE COULD DRIVE OUT TO SOMEPLACE *REALLY* NICE.
GREAT... *ANOTHER* ONE LOOKING FOR ANY EXCUSE TO PARTY...
BUT SENPAI HASUMI... AREN'T YOU BUSY THAT NIGHT?


HA HA...OF COURSE NOT. I ALREADY ASKED MY SINGLE CO-WORKER TO SWITCH WITH ME!
AWW!
WHAT--?! IS IT THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?!
NOW...WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
ANYTHING YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON?
A PRESENT ...?
I ALREADY KNOW WHAT I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU...
...BUT I WOULDN'T WANNA DISAPPOINT YOU OR ANYTHING.
THE OTHER DAY, MY GOMA-CHAN BROUGHT ME THE CUTEST PRESENT...!
SUMIRE'S CO-WORKER/ PET BUDDY, WHO THINKS MOMO'S A CAT.
A HEADLESS GRASS-HOPPER!
IT WAS STILL MOVING AND EVERYTHING!
OH, YEAH--I LOVE THOSE! MY PET'S ALWAYS GIVING ME LITTLE "GIFTS," TOO!
HATES BUGS
I... SEE...
I'VE BROUGHT YOUR FAVORITE!
YOU CAN'T GET MAD AT YOUR PET, Y'KNOW?
THEY'RE JUST SO PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES... DOING SOMETHING NICE FOR THEIR MASTER...
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE HOW THEY EXPRESS THEIR AFFECTION.
THEY GIVE YOU WHATEVER THEY WOULD WANT TO HAVE...
NOT TOO SHABBY, EH? EH?

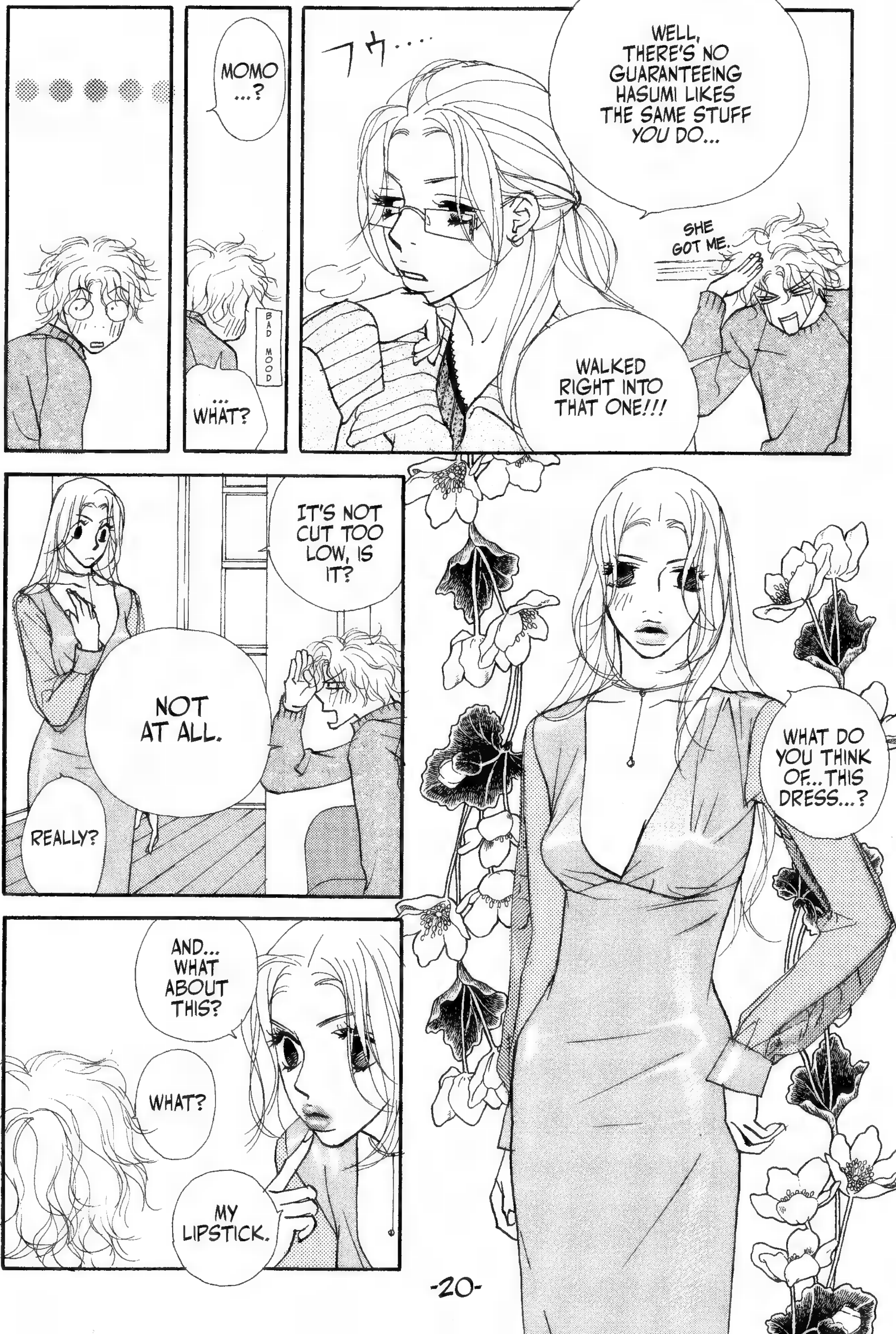
BUT, REALLY...
...DON'T WE ALL?
YEAH...AND THIS GUY'S EXACTLY THE SAME.
HE SWITCHED HIS SCHEDULE WITH HIS CO-WORKER... BECAUSE IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND...
WHY...
...ARE YOU NOT AVAILABLE ON THAT NIGHT?
...AND TO EXCHANGE PRESENTS WITH HER.
SURE...I'M AVAILABLE.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SENPAI HASUMI? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
ME? OH... NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME...I'LL BE HAPPY.

GREAT... YOU'RE SPEECHLESS!
OH--THAT WAS KINDA CHEESY, HUH? WAS IT TOO MUCH FOR YOU?
......
AH... DAMN IT.
BUT IT'S TRUE.
THIS FEELS SO GOOD...
OH...



MY BRAIN FEELS LIKE...
...IT'S MELTING...
HIS HANDS... HIS VOICE...
YOU KNOW, IT REALLY PISSED ME OFF--!
ばっ
THEY'RE AT WORK.
WE SHOULD... GET BACK TO WORK.
キャ
KYAHA, HA, HA, HA! THAT'S TERRIBLE.
UH... YEAH.
WHEN THE HELL ARE WE GONNA...
...GET PAST FIRST BASE?

HEY--WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
20 Best Christmas Presents for Your Boyfriend
http://www.linkclub
EXTRA HEAVY
WOW...WHAT'S THAT? IT'S SO COOL!
REALLY?
WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BETTER-- THIS ONE OR THAT ONE?
THIS ONE, DUH!
YOU, MADAM, NEED TO LEARN WHAT MEN WANT...
REALLY? Y'MEAN...?
WOULD YOU BE HAPPY IF YOU GOT IT AS A GIFT?


フウ....
WELL, THERE'S NO GUARANTEEING HASUMI LIKES THE SAME STUFF YOU DO...
SHE GOT ME.
WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE!!!
MOMO ...?
BAD MOOD
...WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF...THIS DRESS...?
IT'S NOT CUT TOO LOW, IS IT?
NOT AT ALL.
REALLY?
AND... WHAT ABOUT THIS?
WHAT?
MY LIPSTICK.

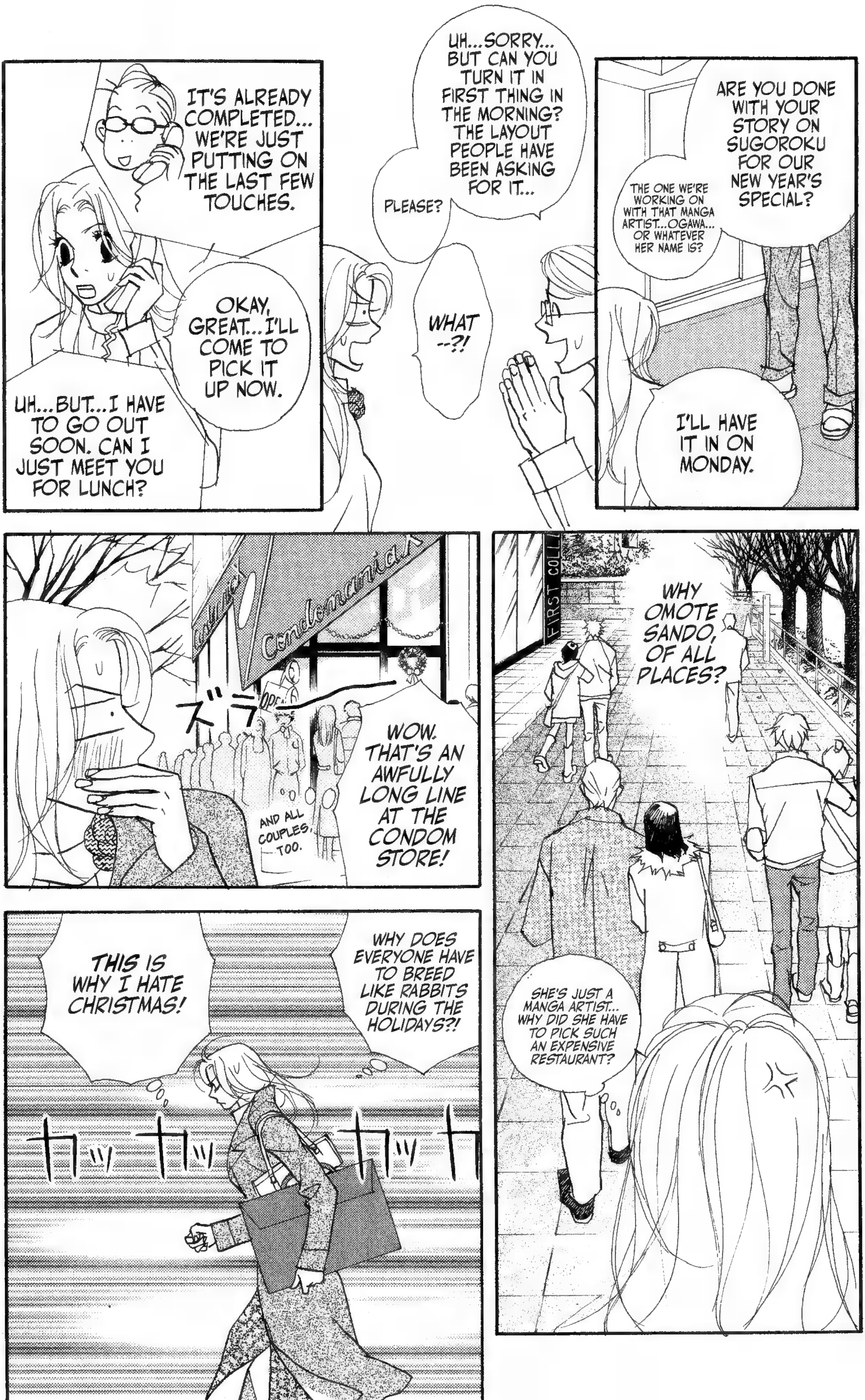
IS IT TOO OBVIOUS? TOO MUCH?
WELL... UM...
IT'S REALLY... BEAUTIFUL.
WHOA...SO GLOSSY AND WET!
I MEAN...
...DOES IT MAKE YOU WANT TO *KISS* ME?
EH. JUST BECAUSE *YOU* LIKE IT DOESN'T MEAN SENPAI *HASUMI* WILL...
フウ.....
BACKHAND
UM, EXCUSE ME...DID I DO *ANYTHING* TO DESERVE THAT?!

UGH...THIS IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
THIS IS WHY I HATE CHRISTMAS.
YES...?
WELL, YOU KNOW THAT BUILDING THAT JUST BURNED DOWN IN HONG KONG? THERE WERE SOME JAPANESE VICTIMS IN THERE.
AND...WELL, SINCE I KNOW THE CITY SO WELL, I'LL PROBABLY BE BUSY FOR A WHILE...
...SO...ON CHRISTMAS EVE...IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD TO LEAVE WORK EARLY.
DON'T LOOK TOO DISAPPOINTED.
YOU'RE TOTALLY FINE, SUMIRE.
OH...I UNDERSTAND.
JUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND DO YOUR BEST, OKAY?
チクン
WHAT...?

MOMO?
HEY...
ゆさ ゆさ
UGH...
I'M SORRY...I WON'T DO IT AGAIN...
TALKING IN HIS SLEEP
ZZZ...
......
ドゴッ
WHAT?!
WHAT HAPPENED?
IS THIS THE END OF THE WORLD?!!
MOMO... I CAN SHAMPOO YOUR HAIR TODAY...IF YOU WANT.
EH? SHA...
SHA-MOO?
YOU LIKE SHAMPOO, DON'T YOU?
UH, YEAH...
...I'M JUST A LI'L BIT... SLEEPY...
ドキ ドキ
THIS MUST MEAN...
...SHE'S UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.
シャク シャク

A STAND-IN FOR HER LOVING EX-DOG, MOMO.
I JUST LISTEN TO HER PATIENTLY.
WHENEVER SHE SHAMPOOS MY HAIR, SHE BECOMES REALLY... TALKATIVE.
ABOUT WORK, COMMUTER TRAINS, TV SHOWS...
RRRR...
HELLO?
OH-- ARE YOU CALLING FROM WORK?
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL AT ALL.
I HAVE TO WORK ON THE 24TH, TOO.
HUH? NO... REALLY. I'M FINE.
PLEASE... JUST REMEMBER TO EAT WELL AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
WELL... THEN...
GOOD NIGHT.

I SEE...
...SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS ...
アスカベーカリー
アスカベーカリー
Christmas cake
Xmas
Xmas
YOU HAVE TO WORK EVEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE...?
TODAY IS SUNDAY, YOU KNOW.
EH. WE ALWAYS GET BUSY TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR.
WHAT A RELIEF.
IT'S JUST LIKE ANY OTHER DAY, NOW.
MS. IWAYA?


ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR STORY ON SUGOROKU FOR OUR NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL?
THE ONE WE'RE WORKING ON WITH THAT MANGA ARTIST...OGAWA... OR WHATEVER HER NAME IS?
I'LL HAVE IT IN ON MONDAY.
UH...SORRY... BUT CAN YOU TURN IT IN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING? THE LAYOUT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR IT...
PLEASE?
WHAT --?!
IT'S ALREADY COMPLETED... WE'RE JUST PUTTING ON THE LAST FEW TOUCHES.
OKAY, GREAT...I'LL COME TO PICK IT UP NOW.
UH...BUT...I HAVE TO GO OUT SOON. CAN I JUST MEET YOU FOR LUNCH?
WHY OMOTE SANDO, OF ALL PLACES?
SHE'S JUST A MANGA ARTIST... WHY DID SHE HAVE TO PICK SUCH AN EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT?
Condomania
ズラー
WOW. THAT'S AN AWFULLY LONG LINE AT THE CONDOM STORE!
AND ALL COUPLES, TOO.
WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO BREED LIKE RABBITS DURING THE HOLIDAYS?!
THIS IS WHY I HATE CHRISTMAS!
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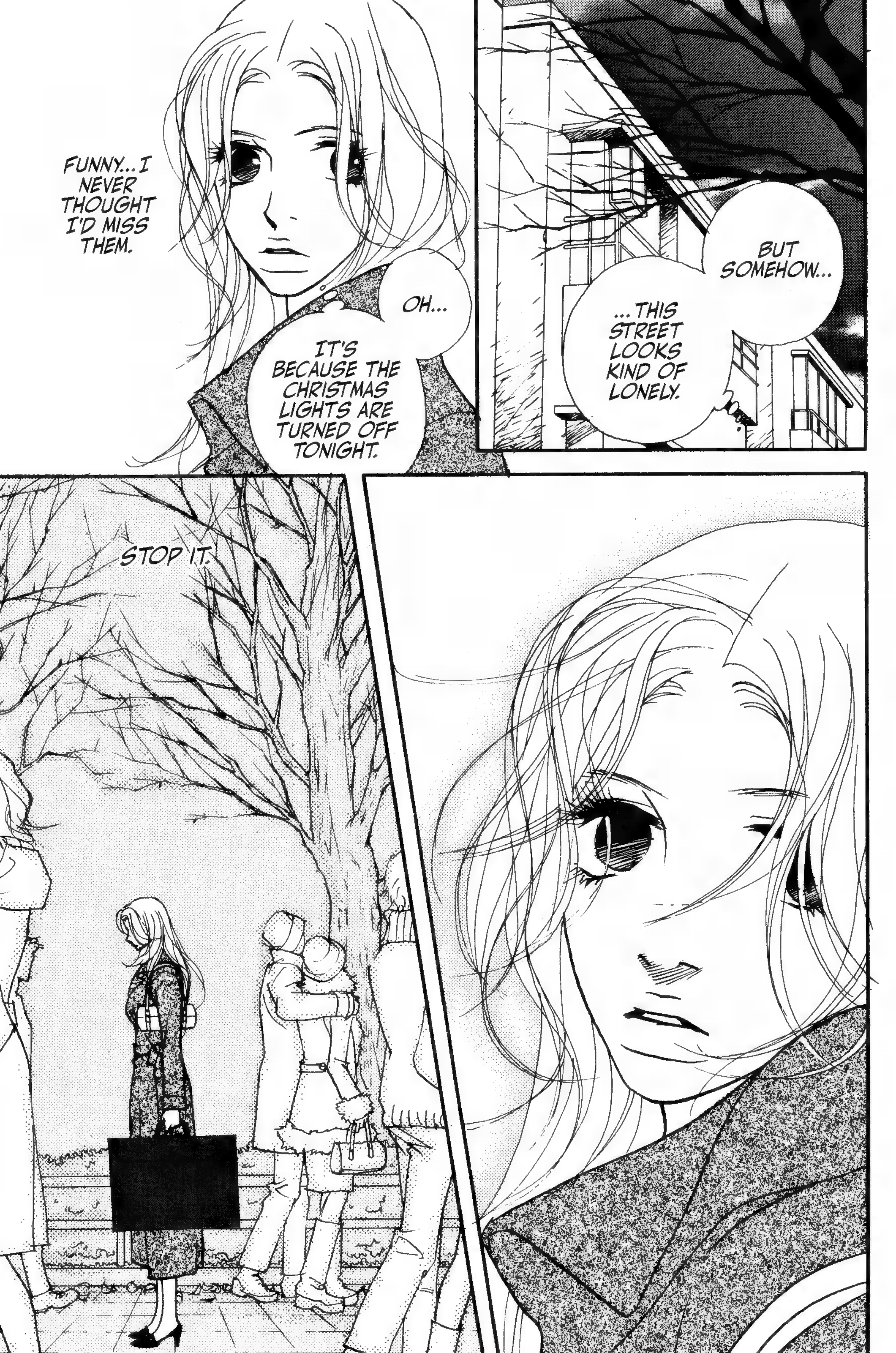
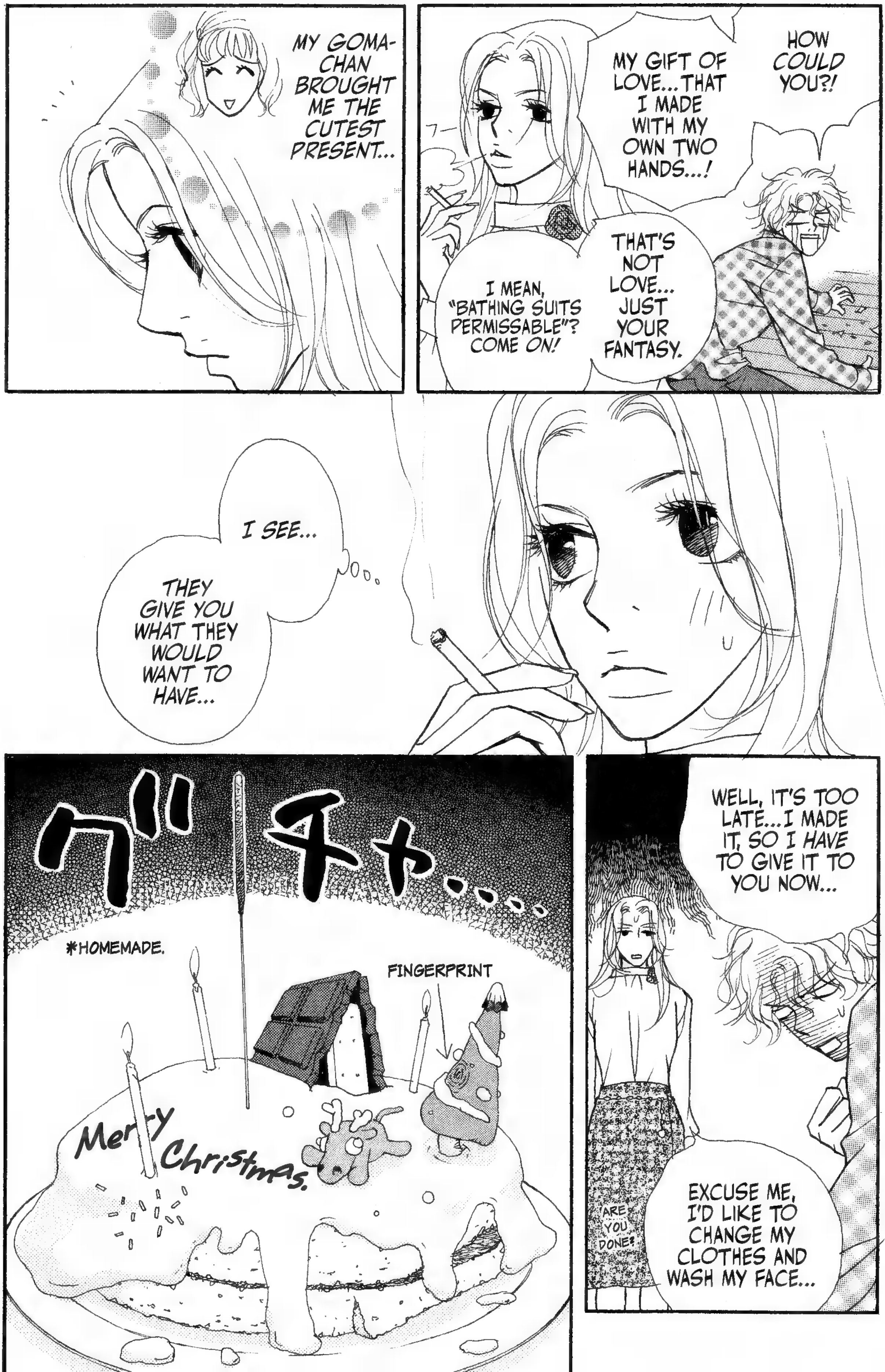
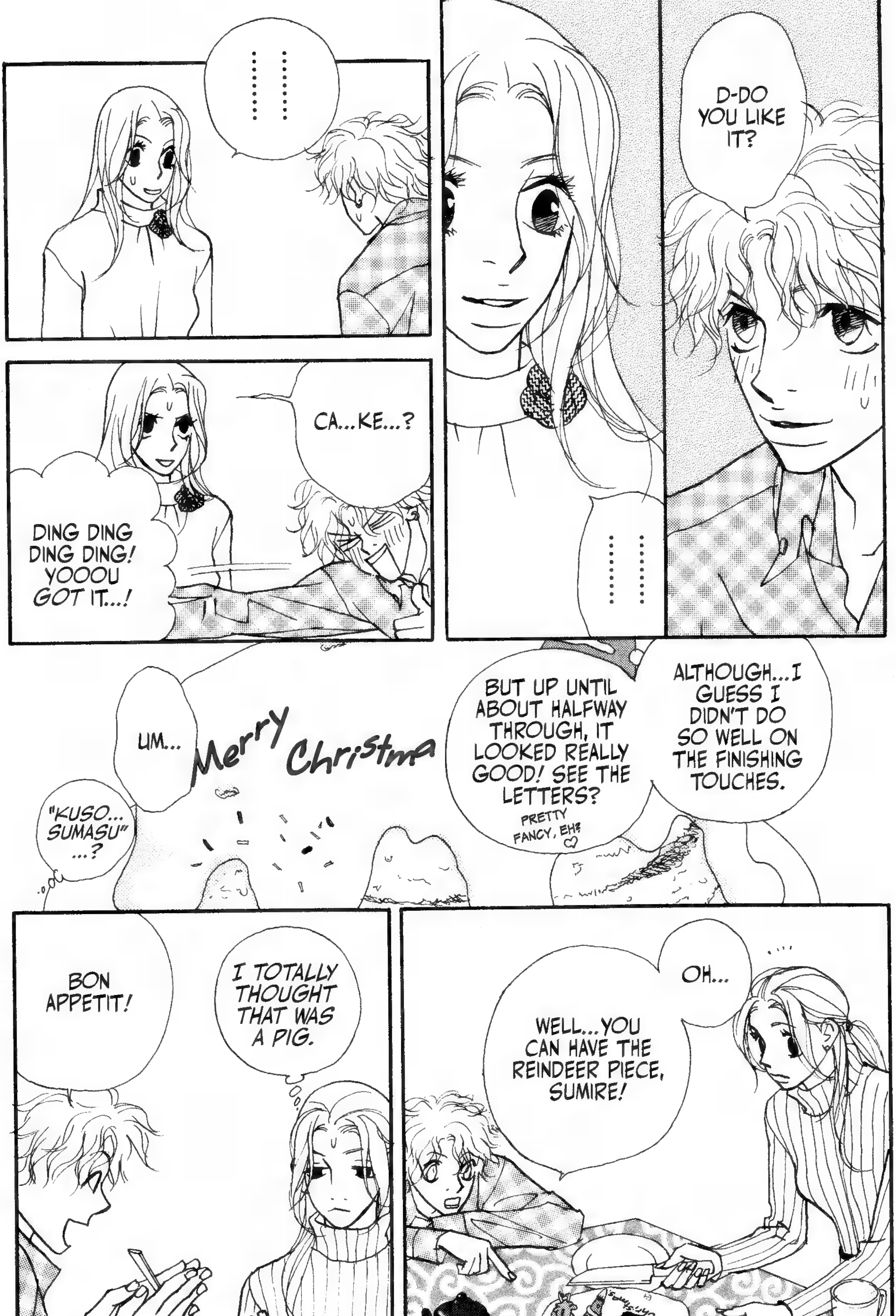
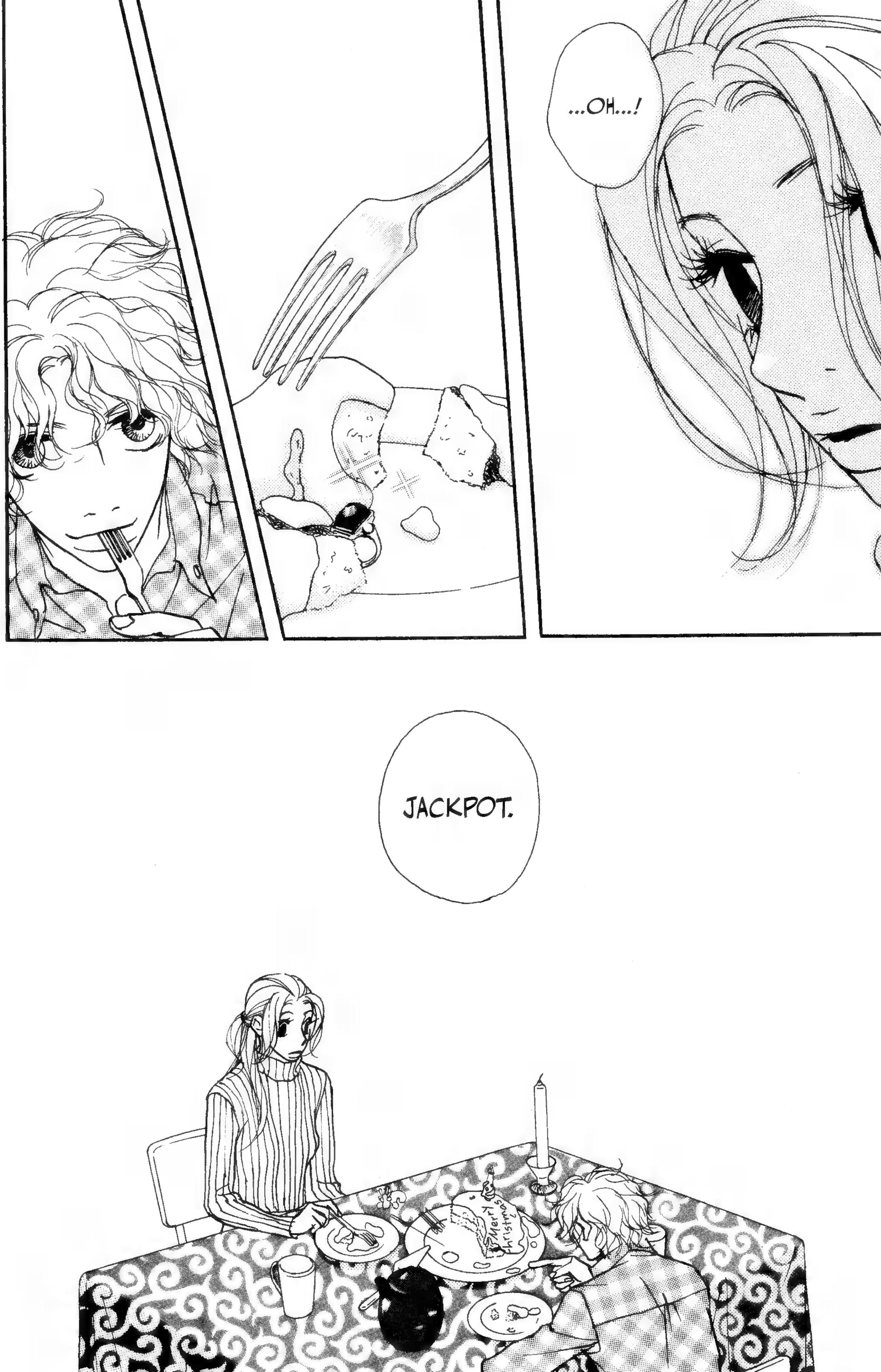

BUT SOMEHOW...
...THIS STREET LOOKS KIND OF LONELY.
OH...
IT'S BECAUSE THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF TONIGHT.
FUNNY...I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS THEM.
STOP IT.

THIS IS...
...DEPRESSING.
ガチャッ...
I'M HOME...
Christmas
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
HO HO HO, THERE. I'M SANTA CLAUS!
......
AND SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A *GOOD* GIRL, I HAVE A VERY SPECIAL *PRESENT* FOR YOU!

GO ON. OPEN IT. ♡
UH...I'M JUST WONDERING...
WHY ARE YOU WEARING A LADY'S SANTA COSTUME?
AWWW...TO BE HONEST, I WANTED YOU TO WEAR IT, SUMIRE...
BUT I WAS TOO SCARED TO ASK...
WHAT HE HAD IN MIND
GAH! YOU DON'T NEED TO CRY...JUST GO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES!
BUT... YOU GOT ME A PRESENT...
UH-HUH-- OPEN IT! OPEN IT! ♡
1 TICKET FOR SHAMPOO SERVICE LIMITED TIME OFFER VALID UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER BATHING SUITS PERMISSABLE ♡
NOT FOR SALE
WHAT'S THIS?
CAN'T YOU TELL? IT'S A SET OF FREE TICKETS FOR FULL SHAMPOO SERVICE!! 20 TOTAL.
MY GOLDEN FINGERS WILL GENTLY CARESS YOUR HEAD...
...AND WASH YOUR HAIR TO A SPARKLING... HUH?!!
ビリッ


MY GOMA-CHAN BROUGHT ME THE CUTEST PRESENT...
MY GIFT OF LOVE...THAT I MADE WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS...!
HOW COULD YOU?!
THAT'S NOT LOVE... JUST YOUR FANTASY.
I MEAN, "BATHING SUITS PERMISSABLE"? COME ON!
I SEE...
THEY GIVE YOU WHAT THEY WOULD WANT TO HAVE...
グチャ...
*HOMEMADE.
FINGERPRINT
Merry Christmas.
WELL, IT'S TOO LATE...I MADE IT, SO I HAVE TO GIVE IT TO YOU NOW...
ARE YOU DONE?
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO CHANGE MY CLOTHES AND WASH MY FACE...

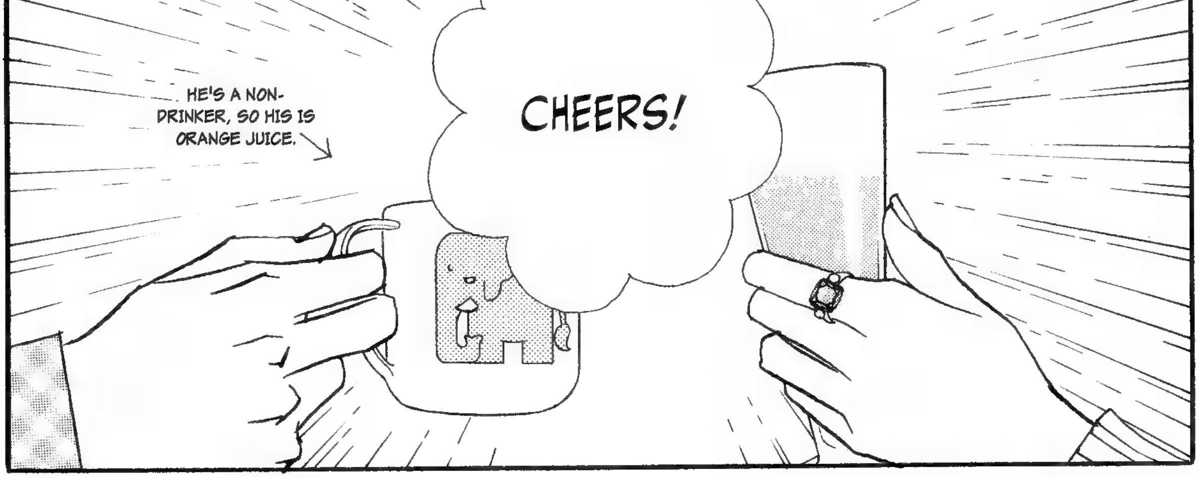

D-DO YOU LIKE IT?
......
......
CA...KE...?
DING DING DING DING! YOOOU GOT IT...!
ALTHOUGH...I GUESS I DIDN'T DO SO WELL ON THE FINISHING TOUCHES.
BUT UP UNTIL ABOUT HALFWAY THROUGH, IT LOOKED REALLY GOOD! SEE THE LETTERS? PRETTY FANCY, EH?
UM...
Merry Christmas
"KUSO... SUMASU" ...?
OH...
WELL...YOU CAN HAVE THE REINDEER PIECE, SUMIRE!
I TOTALLY THOUGHT THAT WAS A PIG.
BON APPETIT!


...OH...!
JACKPOT.

SORRY...I KNOW IT'S JUST A TOY RING.
YOU THINK I'M CHEAP NOW, HUH? DON'T YOU?
カタン
GOOD BOY...
...GOOD BOY.

RRRRR
HELLO?
UH... IT'S ME. HASUMI.
I FINISHED MY WORK EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT, AND I'M ALMOST AT YOUR PLACE...
SO IF YOU STILL WANT TO DO SOMETHING TONIGHT...I CAN PICK YOU UP NOW.
AH...
SO...YOU'RE ALREADY ON MEGURO STREET?
UH... YES.
I'M SO SORRY... BUT I CAN'T...
MY SISTERS ARE HERE. THEY'RE STAYING WITH ME TONIGHT...

I SEE... WELL, I'M SORRY, TOO.
YEAH. SO AM I...
BUT THAT'S OKAY. IT WAS SHORT NOTICE, ANYWAY.
SIGH...
TOTALLY MISSED MY CHANCE.
WELL... BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.

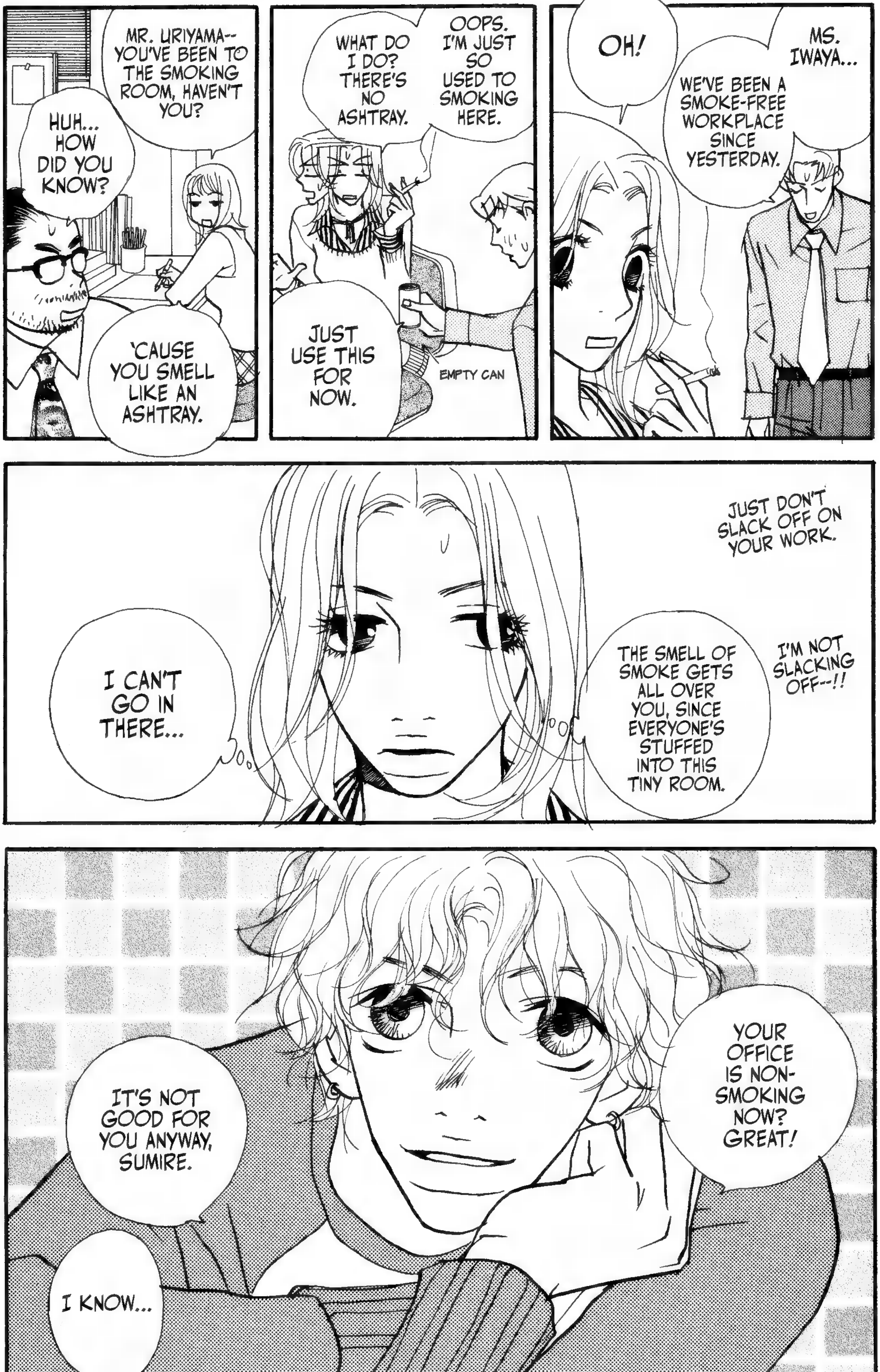

HE'S A NON-DRINKER, SO HIS IS ORANGE JUICE.
CHEERS!

THIS ISN'T SO BAD.
I'M HAVING A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH MY PET.
ALL RIGHT... MAYBE WE CAN BUY A CHRISTMAS TREE NEXT YEAR.
YES!
MORE SAKE, MR. REINDEER!
HO HO HO...
AND SO, THIS YEAR, SUMIRE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED CHRISTMAS... AS SHE NEVER HAD BEFORE.
UGH...

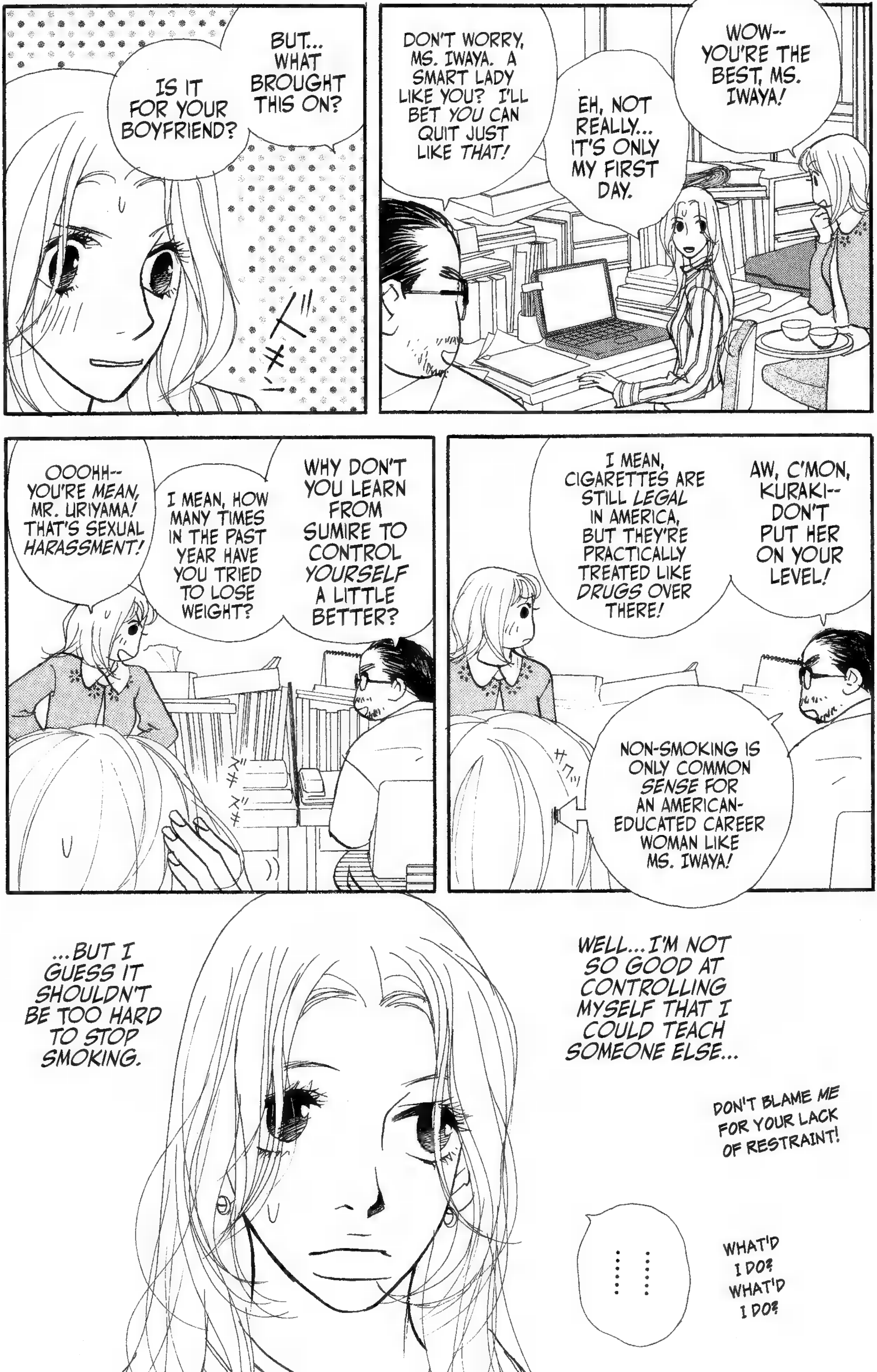
RULE 6:
THE USEFULNESS OF COMPANION ANIMALS

MY MISTRESS BRUSHES HER TEETH FIVE TIMES A DAY.
OUCH. IT'S BLEEDING AGAIN.
SHE TAKES ONE SHOWER IN THE MORNING, AND ANOTHER WHEN SHE GETS HOME FROM WORK.
SHE ALWAYS PUTS HER CLEAN CLOTHES IN THE CLOSET RIGHT AWAY.
HER PERFUME OF THE WEEK IS GUCCI'S "RUSH."
SHE REALLY TAKES CARE TO KEEP THE SMELL OFF HER.
YOU KNOW THE SMELL I MEAN?

No smoking
ペタッ
社員食堂X
MY WORKPLACE HAS BECOME A NON-SMOKING ZONE.
SO, ANYWAY...
WE'VE SET UP A SMOKING ROOM NEXT TO THE REFRESHMENT ROOM ON THE NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING. IF YOU WANT TO SMOKE, PLEASE DO IT IN THERE.
I USED TO BE *PROUD* TO HAVE SUCH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF SMOKERS AT MY WORK... BUT NOW EVERYTHING'S *NON-SMOKING.*
YEAH...NOW THAT THERE ARE SO MANY COMPUTERS AND OTHER HIGH-TECH THINGS...
WELL, WE HAVE NO CHOICE NOW. IT'S TURNED INTO A TREND.
MOST OTHER COMMERCIAL COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY SWITCHED OVER TO NON-SMOKING POLICIES.
THE IMAGE OF THE STAR REPORTER WRITING A STORY WITH A CIGARETTE DANGLING FROM HIS LIPS ISN'T FASHIONABLE ANYMORE.
RIGHT, MS. IWAYA?
HUH?


MS. IWAYA...
WE'VE BEEN A SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE SINCE YESTERDAY.
OH!
OOPS. I'M JUST SO USED TO SMOKING HERE.
WHAT DO I DO? THERE'S NO ASHTRAY.
JUST USE THIS FOR NOW.
EMPTY CAN
MR. URIYAMA--YOU'VE BEEN TO THE SMOKING ROOM, HAVEN'T YOU?
HUH... HOW DID YOU KNOW?
'CAUSE YOU SMELL LIKE AN ASHTRAY.
JUST DON'T SLACK OFF ON YOUR WORK.
I'M NOT SLACKING OFF--!!
THE SMELL OF SMOKE GETS ALL OVER YOU, SINCE EVERYONE'S STUFFED INTO THIS TINY ROOM.
I CAN'T GO IN THERE...
YOUR OFFICE IS NON-SMOKING NOW? GREAT!
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU ANYWAY, SUMIRE.
I KNOW...

THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY. SHOULD I QUIT SMOKING...?
SENPAI HASUMI DOESN'T LIKE IT, EITHER.
EYE PILLOW
AND THIS KID HASN'T SAID ANYTHING...
BUT MAYBE IT BUGS HIM, TOO.
?
I GOT IT! WAIT! DON'T TELL ME...
HUH?
SUMIRE...YOU MADE A BIG DECISION JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?
UH... SORT OF...
I KNEW IT!
WELL, I'M GONNA GO WASH MY WEE-WEE NOW!
WHAT?!!!
Try to last 30 minutes today.
No smoking
REALLY? YOU REALLY QUIT SMOKING?

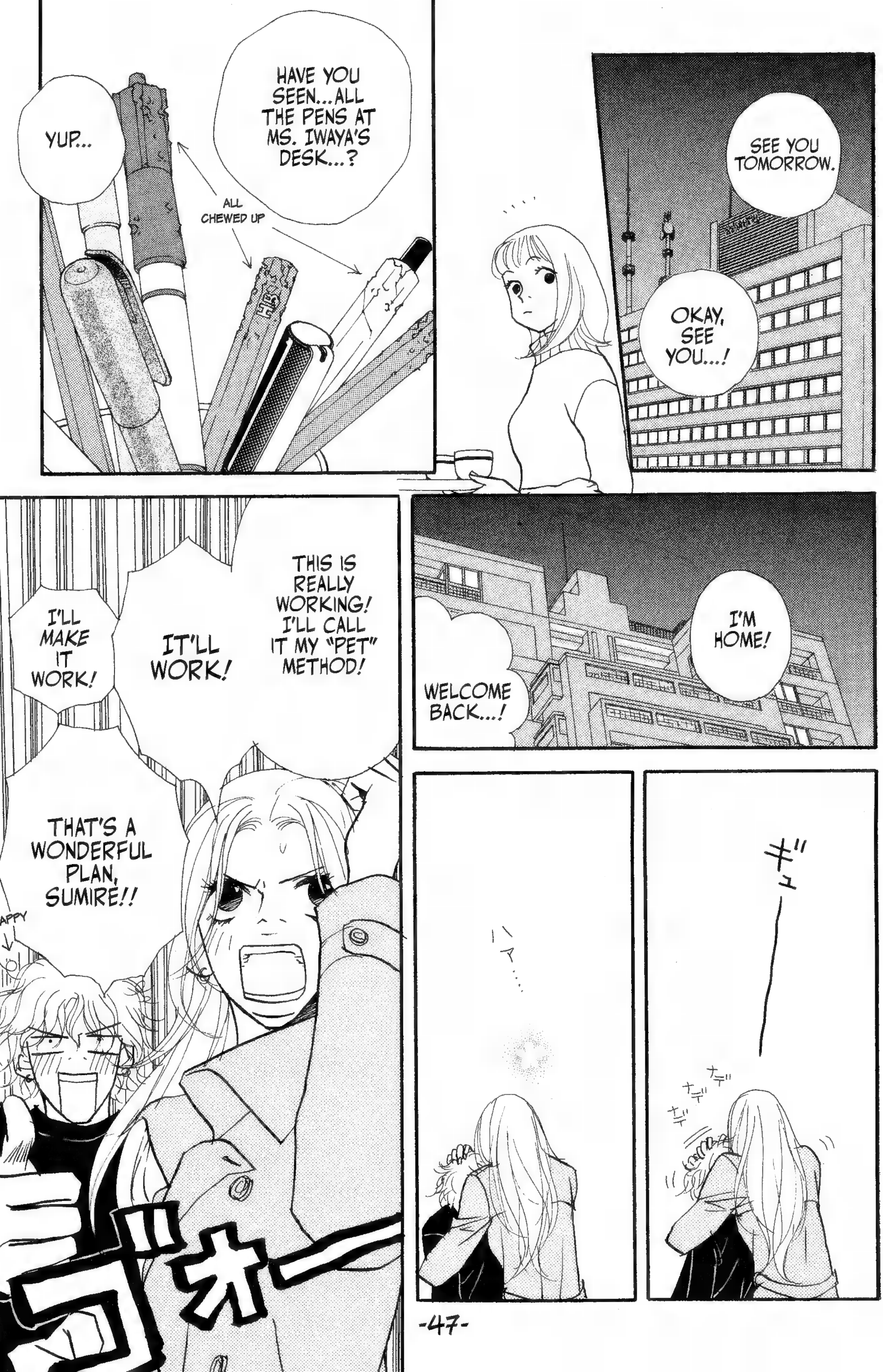

WOW-- YOU'RE THE BEST, MS. IWAYA!
EH, NOT REALLY... IT'S ONLY MY FIRST DAY.
DON'T WORRY, MS. IWAYA. A SMART LADY LIKE YOU? I'LL BET YOU CAN QUIT JUST LIKE THAT!
BUT... WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
IS IT FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND?
AW, C'MON, KURAKI-- DON'T PUT HER ON YOUR LEVEL!
I MEAN, CIGARETTES ARE STILL LEGAL IN AMERICA, BUT THEY'RE PRACTICALLY TREATED LIKE DRUGS OVER THERE!
NON-SMOKING IS ONLY COMMON SENSE FOR AN AMERICAN-EDUCATED CAREER WOMAN LIKE MS. IWAYA!
WHY DON'T YOU LEARN FROM SUMIRE TO CONTROL YOURSELF A LITTLE BETTER?
I MEAN, HOW MANY TIMES IN THE PAST YEAR HAVE YOU TRIED TO LOSE WEIGHT?
OOOHH-- YOU'RE MEAN, MR. URIYAMA! THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
WELL... I'M NOT SO GOOD AT CONTROLLING MYSELF THAT I COULD TEACH SOMEONE ELSE...
DON'T BLAME ME FOR YOUR LACK OF RESTRAINT!
WHAT'D I DO? WHAT'D I DO?
......
...BUT I GUESS IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO STOP SMOKING.

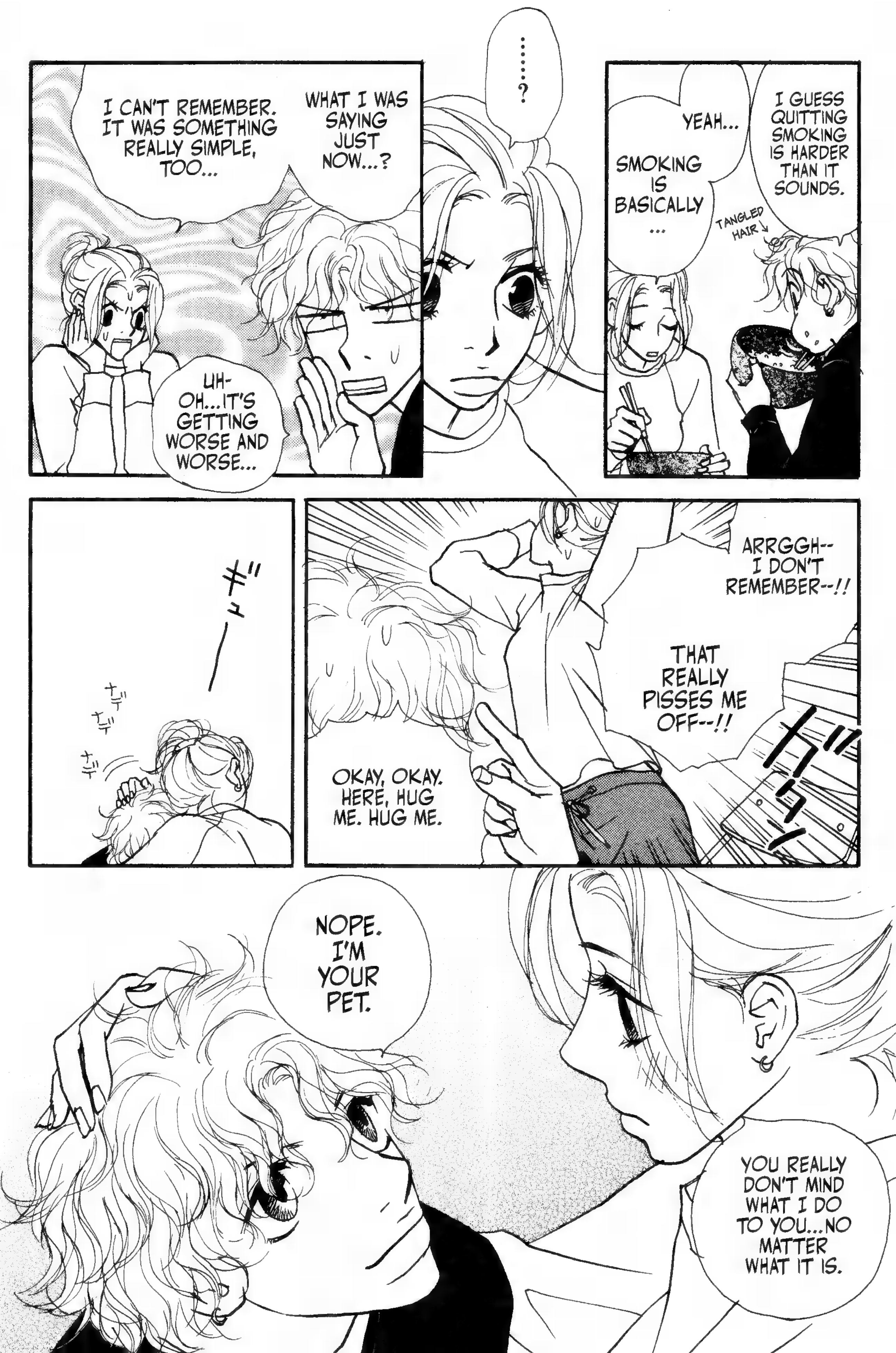
NON-SMOKING DAY 2
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
...MY BODY IS MORE ADDICTED TO NICOTINE THAN I THOUGHT.
TAP TAP TAP...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THIS IS ACTUALLY REALLY HARD...
WELL... WHEN I GET HOME, I'LL HAVE JUST ONE CIGARETTE!
SHE'S DRIVING... ME CRAZY...
SHHH...
WHEW! ALL DONE! NOW, TO GO HOME--!
MS. IWAYA?
SENPAI HASUMI.
I'M DONE FOR THE DAY, TOO.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER?

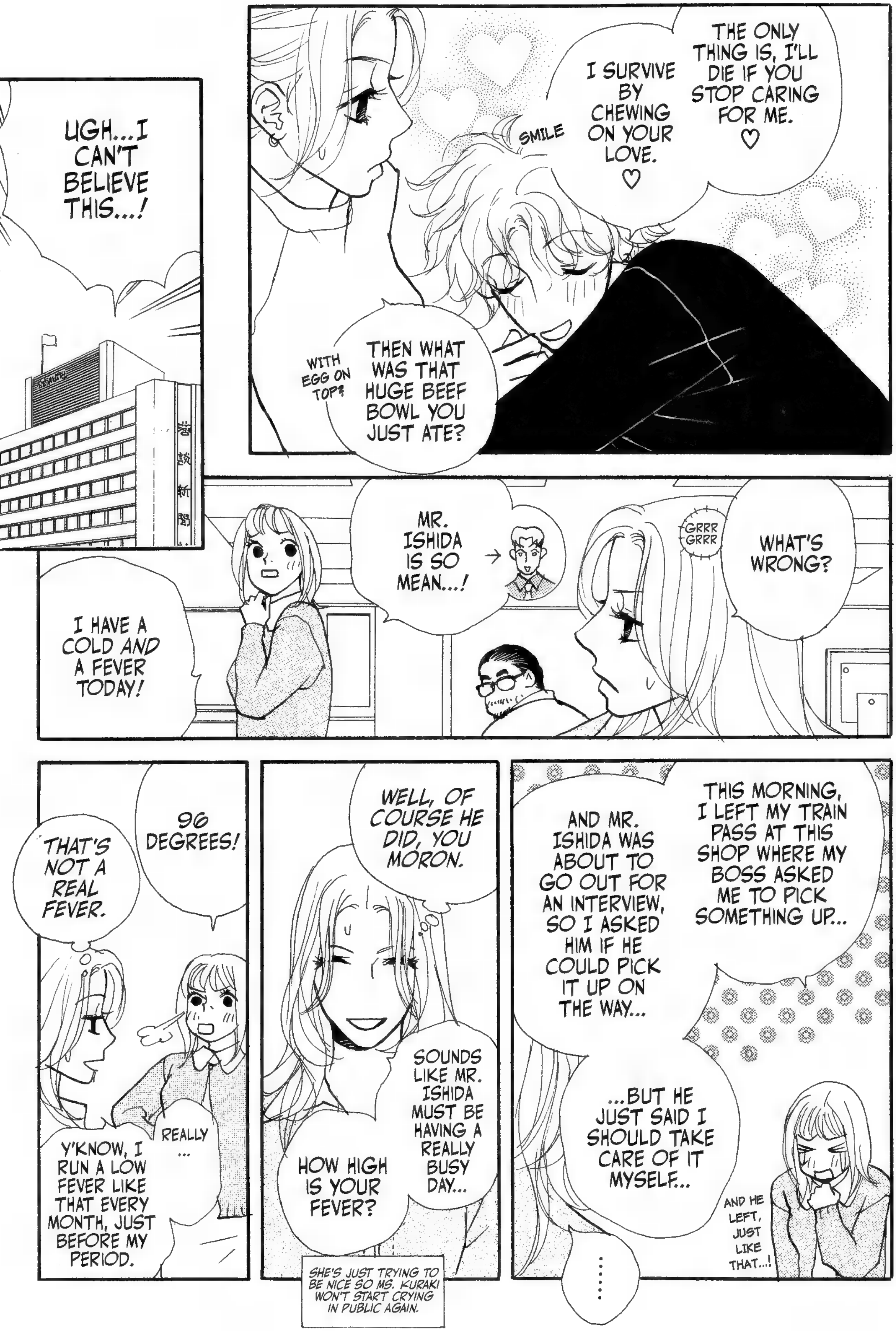
THE ONLY TABLE AVAILABLE IS IN THE SMOKING SECTION. IS THAT OKAY?
OH-- SURE.
... GREAT.
I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT...BUT YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD TODAY.
NOT SO GOOD...? MORE LIKE REALLY BAD.
I CAN'T SMOKE IN FRONT OF HIM...
OLD MAN SITTING NEXT TO HER
Panicking
OHHHH--THE SMOKE SMELLS SO TEMPTING!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? OH...THAT'S NOT A GOOD SEAT, IS IT?
IT'S OKAY. I'LL TRADE PLACES WITH YOU.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? IT'S BAD MANNERS-- BUT SHOULD I GO TO THE RESTROOM TO SMOKE?
OH--BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CIGARETTES WITH ME!
IS SHE... JIGGLING HER LEG...?
...OR AM I IMAGINING IT...?

I HAVE NO CHOICE. I'VE GOT TO GO FIND A VENDING MACHINE.
UM, EXCUSE ME... BUT...
OH...I HEARD YOU QUIT SMOKING. IS THAT IT?
NEWS TRAVELS FAST!!
I GOTTA GIVE HIM CREDIT... HE'S A GREAT REPORTER!
I'M SORRY. I SHOULD'VE WAITED FOR A NON-SMOKING TABLE.
I, COMPLETELY FORGOT.
*HASUMI IS VERY POPULAR WITH THE LADIES, SO HE GETS ALL THE GOSSIP FROM THEM.
OH, MR. HASUMIIII...
CAN WE SIT WITH YOU...?
BUT YOU DIDN'T SMOKE THAT MUCH BEFORE, ANYWAY...DID YOU?
UH...NO... ABOUT ONE PACK FOR EVERY THREE DAYS...OR SOMETHING.
LIAR. AT LEAST A PACK A DAY!
I QUIT SMOKING A LONG TIME AGO. IT WAS REALLY HARD.
BUT YOU'RE SO DETERMINED AND STRONG, IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT HARD FOR YOU.
WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE...
......

バタン!
ガチャッ
バサッ
ドタドタドタ
ぎゅむっ
WELCOME ...
ギュー
ナデ ナデ ナデ
ナデ ナデ ナデ
??
ホ……
PHEW... I FEEL BETTER.
...A LITTLE BIT, ANYWAY.


SEE YOU TOMORROW.
OKAY, SEE YOU...!
HAVE YOU SEEN...ALL THE PENS AT MS. IWAYA'S DESK...?
ALL CHEWED UP
YUP...
I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK...!
ギュー
ナデ ナデ ナデ
ハァ...
THIS IS REALLY WORKING! I'LL CALL IT MY "PET" METHOD!
IT'LL WORK!
I'LL MAKE IT WORK!
THAT'S A WONDERFUL PLAN, SUMIRE!!


I GUESS QUITTING SMOKING IS HARDER THAN IT SOUNDS.
YEAH...
SMOKING IS BASICALLY...
TANGLED HAIR
......?
WHAT I WAS SAYING JUST NOW...?
I CAN'T REMEMBER. IT WAS SOMETHING REALLY SIMPLE, TOO...
UH-OH...IT'S GETTING WORSE AND WORSE...
ARRGGH-- I DON'T REMEMBER--!!
THAT REALLY PISSES ME OFF--!!
ガタン
OKAY, OKAY. HERE, HUG ME. HUG ME.
ギュー
ナデ ナデ ナデ
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND WHAT I DO TO YOU...NO MATTER WHAT IT IS.
NOPE. I'M YOUR PET.



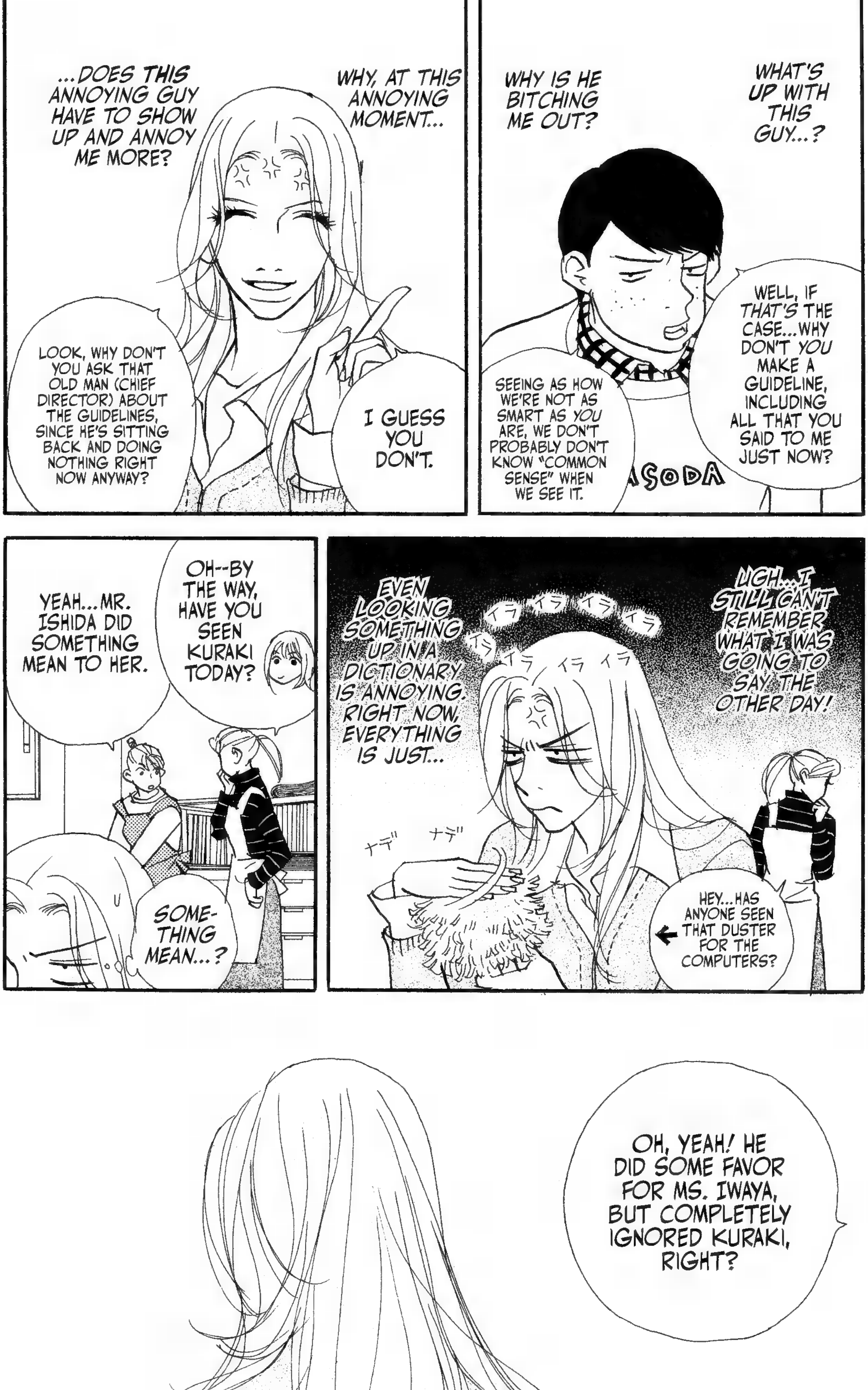
THE ONLY THING IS, I'LL DIE IF YOU STOP CARING FOR ME. ♡
SMILE
I SURVIVE BY CHEWING ON YOUR LOVE. ♡
THEN WHAT WAS THAT HUGE BEEF BOWL YOU JUST ATE?
WITH EGG ON TOP?
UGH...I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...!
WHAT'S WRONG?
GRRR GRRR
MR. ISHIDA IS SO MEAN...!
I HAVE A COLD AND A FEVER TODAY!
THIS MORNING, I LEFT MY TRAIN PASS AT THIS SHOP WHERE MY BOSS ASKED ME TO PICK SOMETHING UP...
AND MR. ISHIDA WAS ABOUT TO GO OUT FOR AN INTERVIEW, SO I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD PICK IT UP ON THE WAY...
...BUT HE JUST SAID I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF...
AND HE LEFT, JUST LIKE THAT...!
......
WELL, OF COURSE HE DID, YOU MORON.
SOUNDS LIKE MR. ISHIDA MUST BE HAVING A REALLY BUSY DAY...
HOW HIGH IS YOUR FEVER?
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO BE NICE SO MS. KURAKI WON'T START CRYING IN PUBLIC AGAIN.
96 DEGREES!
THAT'S NOT A REAL FEVER.
REALLY...
Y'KNOW, I RUN A LOW FEVER LIKE THAT EVERY MONTH, JUST BEFORE MY PERIOD.

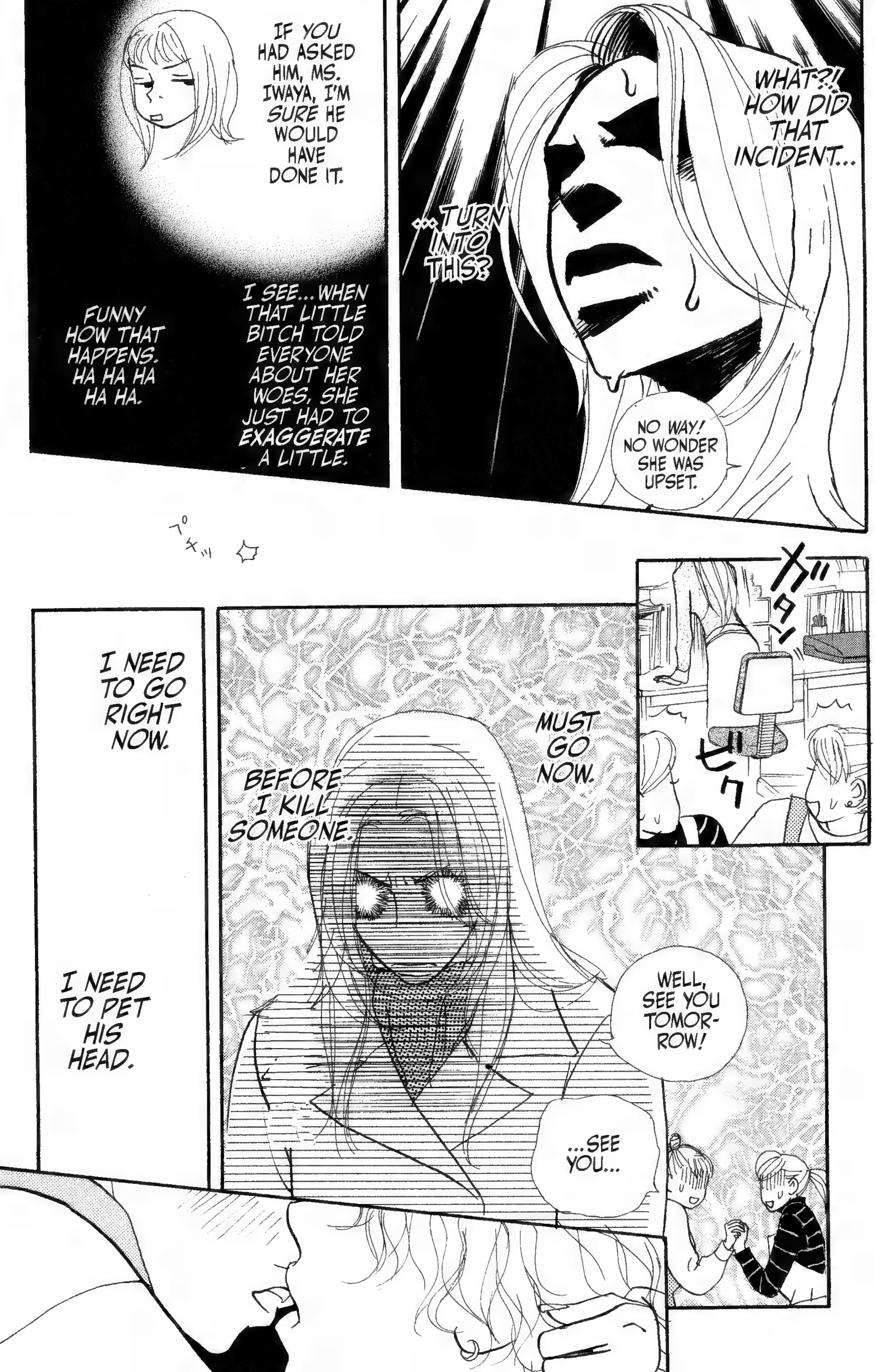
BUT MY NORMAL TEMPARTURE IS LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON'S...
...IF IT EVER GETS OVER 98.6 DEGREES, I GET ALL DIZZY...
I SEE... THAT'S TOO BAD.
LOOKS OKAY TO ME.
OH, QUIT YOUR BITCHING. I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
I HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN ANYWAY.
REALLY?
OH MY GOSH... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID THAT.
WHY DO GUYS ALWAYS FALL FOR OBVIOUS TRICKS LIKE THAT?
OOOH, MR. URIYAMA--YOU'RE SO SWEET!
JUST REMEMBER, YOU'RE BUYING ME DINNER NEXT TIME.
MR. ISHIDA DISCRIMINATES AGAINST WOMEN BASED ON THEIR BEAUTY--THAT'S WHAT REALLY TICKS ME OFF!
IF YOU HAD ASKED HIM, MS. IWAYA, I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE DONE IT.
WHAT?
WHAT KIND OF REASON IS THAT TO JUDGE SOMEONE?
I WOULD NEVER EXPECT ANYONE TO HELP ME WITH A TINY FEVER LIKE THAT.
HE JUST SUCKS, THAT'S ALL...

イラ
YOU DECIDED TO COME TO WORK TODAY, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SICK, SO IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET YOUR WORK DONE.
LOOKS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
UGH... THIS IS NOT GOOD. I'M SO IRRITABLE TODAY.
WISH MOMO WERE HERE RIGHT NOW...
ALL I WANT IS TO TOUCH HIM.
RRRR
OH...!
NO ONE EVER CALLS ME ON MY PERSONAL PHONE.
MAYBE IT'S SUMIRE...?
RRRR
HELLO. YOU'VE REACHED THE EARTH DEFENSE OFFICE...
...TAKESHI?

YOU'RE THAT WOMAN'S GIGOLO, AREN'T YOU?
KEI TOLD ME.
RUMI, MOMO'S EX-GIRLFRIEND
OH, NO! I'M NOT A GIGOLO.
I'M JUST HER PET. ♡
THAT'S EVEN WORSE.
YOU COULD AT LEAST ASK HER TO TREAT YOU LIKE A HUMAN BEING.
BUT WHEN I CALLED YOU UP...
...YOU IMMEDIATELY JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO SEE ME...
UM, HELLO?
MORE LIKE YOU FORCED ME TO SEE YOU. REMEMBER?
I'LL KILL MYSELF IF YOU DON'T COME RIGHT NOW!
KISS ME...?

POOR PEN!
EXCUSE ME...MR. ISHIDA ASKED US TO BRING THIS PICTURE OVER...
OH--HE'S AT LUNCH RIGHT NOW. JUST LEAVE IT WITH ME.
GRRR GRRR
UM...
WAIT A SECOND.
WAS THIS THE LARGEST SIZE YOU COULD GET?
WASODA
WELL, NO...THERE WERE PROBABLY OTHERS...
BUT WE WERE JUST TOLD TO GET "A PHOTO OF PRINCESS DIANA," SO...
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...WHY DIDN'T YOU DOUBLE CHECK WITH HIM, OR ASK FOR SOME MORE PICTURES TO BE SAFE? ISN'T THAT COMMON SENSE?
GRRR GRRR
WASODA
HUH?


WHAT'S UP WITH THIS GUY...?
WHY IS HE BITCHING ME OUT?
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A GUIDELINE, INCLUDING ALL THAT YOU SAID TO ME JUST NOW?
SEEING AS HOW WE'RE NOT AS SMART AS YOU ARE, WE DON'T PROBABLY DON'T KNOW "COMMON SENSE" WHEN WE SEE IT.
ASODA
WHY, AT THIS ANNOYING MOMENT...
...DOES THIS ANNOYING GUY HAVE TO SHOW UP AND ANNOY ME MORE?
I GUESS YOU DON'T.
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU ASK THAT OLD MAN (CHIEF DIRECTOR) ABOUT THE GUIDELINES, SINCE HE'S SITTING BACK AND DOING NOTHING RIGHT NOW ANYWAY?
UGH...I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY THE OTHER DAY!
EVEN LOOKING SOMETHING UP IN A DICTIONARY IS ANNOYING. RIGHT NOW, EVERYTHING IS JUST...
イラ イラ イラ イラ イラ イラ イラ イラ
ナデ ナデ
HEY...HAS ANYONE SEEN THAT DUSTER FOR THE COMPUTERS?
OH--BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU SEEN KURAKI TODAY?
YEAH...MR. ISHIDA DID SOMETHING MEAN TO HER.
SOME-THING MEAN...?
OH, YEAH! HE DID SOME FAVOR FOR MS. IWAYA, BUT COMPLETELY IGNORED KURAKI, RIGHT?


WHAT?! HOW DID THAT INCIDENT...
...TURN INTO THIS?
NO WAY! NO WONDER SHE WAS UPSET.
IF YOU HAD ASKED HIM, MS. IWAYA, I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE DONE IT.
I SEE...WHEN THAT LITTLE BITCH TOLD EVERYONE ABOUT HER WOES, SHE JUST HAD TO EXAGGERATE A LITTLE.
FUNNY HOW THAT HAPPENS. HA HA HA HA HA.
プチッ
ガタン
ビク
MUST GO NOW.
BEFORE I KILL SOMEONE.
WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW!
...SEE YOU...
I NEED TO GO RIGHT NOW.
I NEED TO PET HIS HEAD.

IT'S... COLD HERE.
WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...?
WELL, NOT TO A LOVE HOTEL.
'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
HA HA! ♡
FINE. I'LL PAY, IF YOU WON'T...
WELL...
OKAY. I'LL GO TO THE HOTEL, BUT I HAVE TO BE BACK IN HALF AN HOUR, 'KAY?
MY MISTRESS WILL BE HOME SOON.
SO? WHAT DO YOU SAY?
OR WOULD YOU RATHER JUST DO IT RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?
I CAN MAKE YOU COME WITH MY FINGERS, IF YOU WANT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
GO TO HELL!!
バコッ
バタバタバタ
WHOA...
...SHE'S STRONGER THAN SUMIRE.
AAAHHHHH!

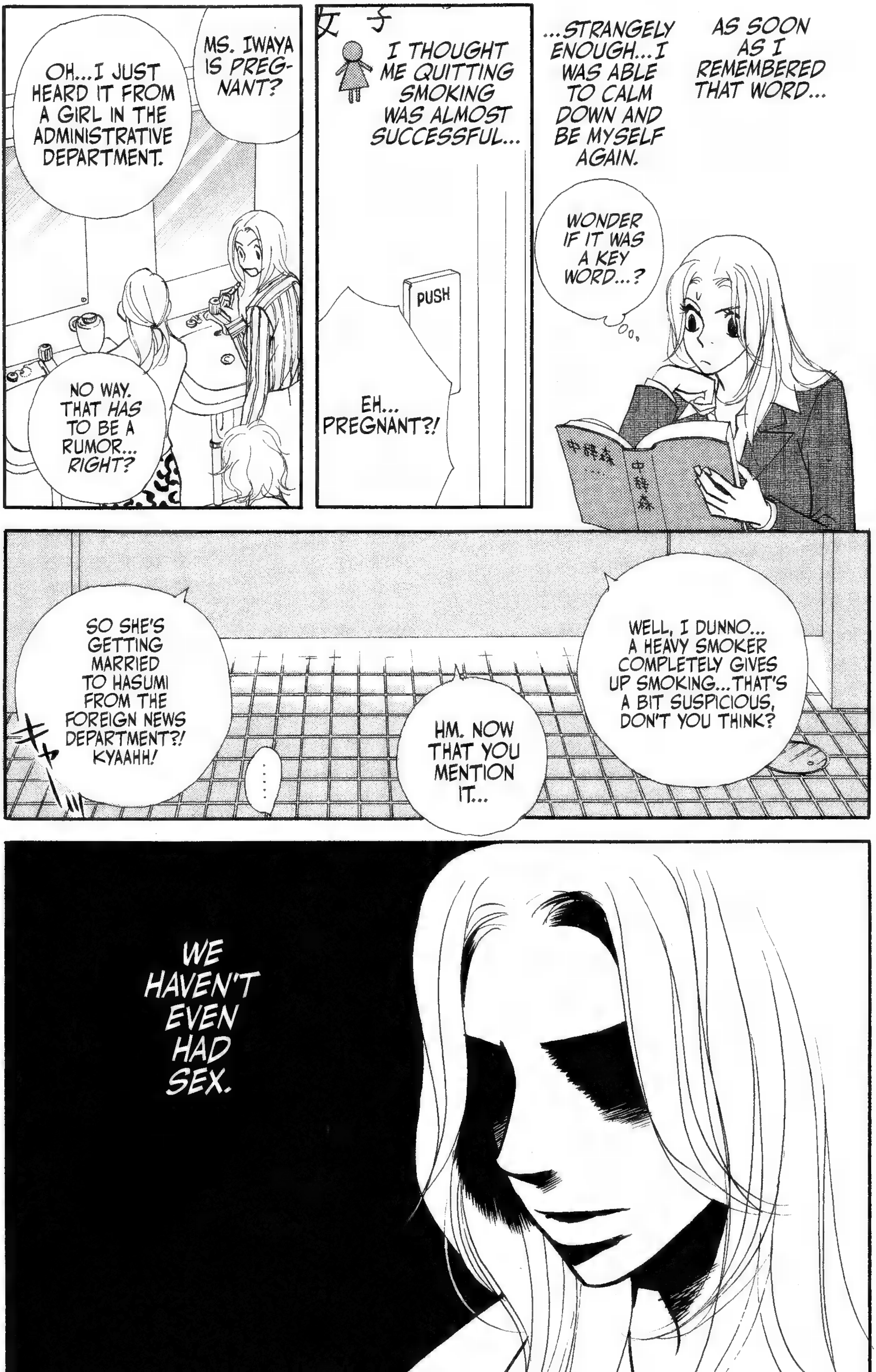
WHAT IS THIS?! WHY ISN'T HE HOME?!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?! A PET HAS TO STAY AT HOME...
...ALWAYS...
...ALWAYS...!
HE SHOULD *ALWAYS* BE AT MY SIDE...!
WHY...
...AM I SO WEAK?
...UGH...
...UHU...

WOW--YOU'RE THE BEST, MS. IWAYA!
WHY DON'T YOU LEARN FROM SUMIRE TO CONTROL YOURSELF A LITTLE BETTER?
YOU'RE SO DETERMINED AND STRONG, IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT HARD FOR YOU.
IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE...
...IT'S ONLY GIVING UP SMOKING... BUT I CAN'T DO IT BY MYSELF!
I'M A COMPLETE BASKET CASE!
...SOB ...!
SUMIRE...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
WHAT'S THIS?!
WHAT HAPPENED IN HERE?!
WAS IT A BURGLAR?!
ARE YOU OKAY...?

AND THEN...
...FOR ALMOST AS LONG AS I COULD SING A FULL CHORUS OF THE LATEST POPULAR LOVE SONG IN MY HEAD...
SUMIRE...
...SHE HELD ME.

SOMETIMES, HER THIN FINGERS SCRATCHED MY HAIR.
ぷは
SIGH...
......
OH.
WHAT...?
...NOTHING.
I JUST REMEMBERED THE WORD... THE ONE I COULDN'T THINK OF FOR A WHILE.

Tranquilizer: (n)
A drug to reduce and/or ease excitement, stress or tension.



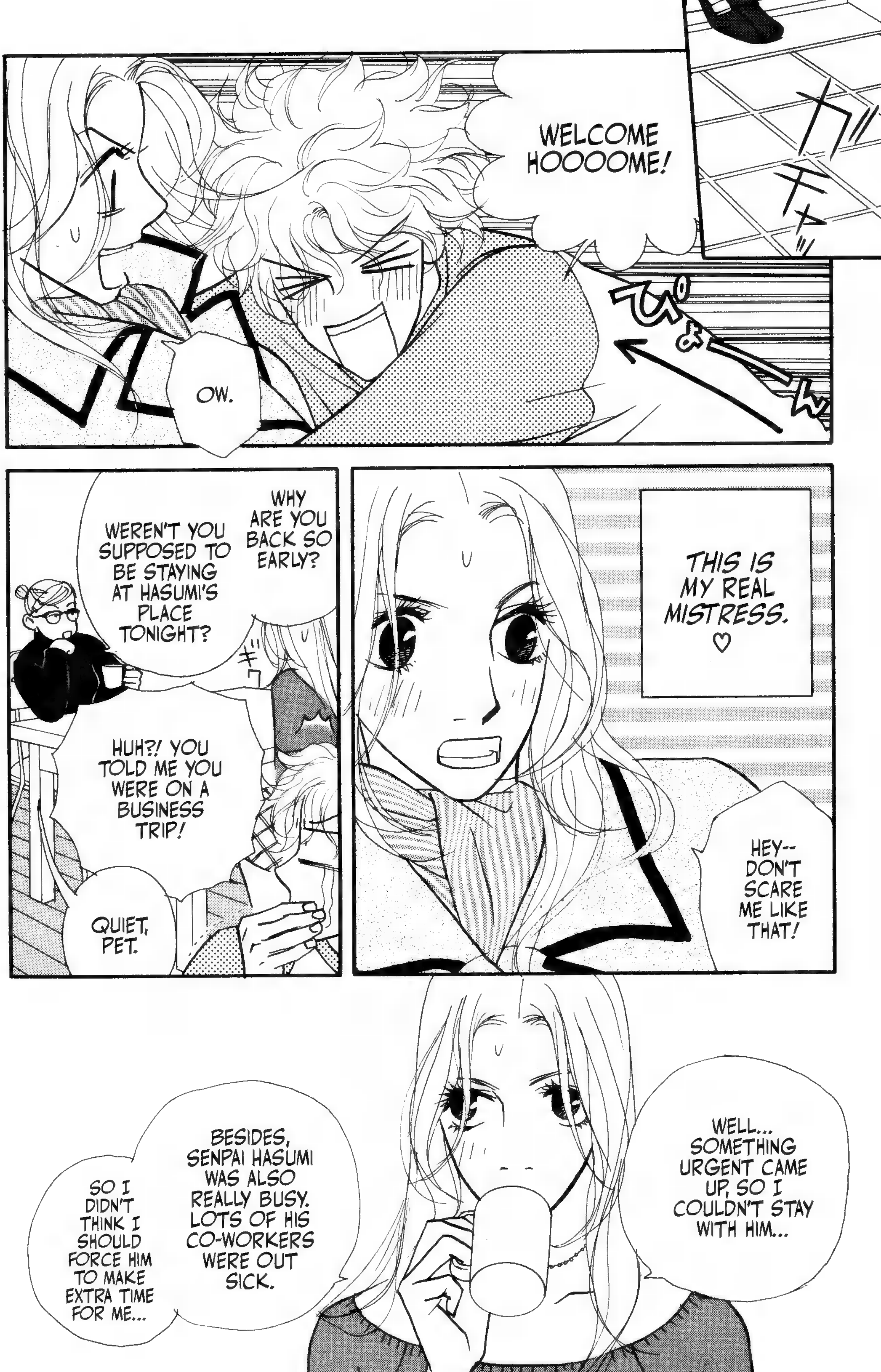
AS SOON AS I REMEMBERED THAT WORD...
...STRANGELY ENOUGH...I WAS ABLE TO CALM DOWN AND BE MYSELF AGAIN.
WONDER IF IT WAS A KEY WORD...?
女子
I THOUGHT ME QUITTING SMOKING WAS ALMOST SUCCESSFUL...
PUSH
EH... PREGNANT?!
MS. IWAYA IS PREGNANT?
OH...I JUST HEARD IT FROM A GIRL IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT.
NO WAY. THAT HAS TO BE A RUMOR... RIGHT?
WELL, I DUNNO... A HEAVY SMOKER COMPLETELY GIVES UP SMOKING...THAT'S A BIT SUSPICIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?
HM. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
......
SO SHE'S GETTING MARRIED TO HASUMI FROM THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT?! KYAAHH!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD SEX.

HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED TO NOT SMOKING ANYMORE?
SIMPLE. I QUIT.
I JUST REALIZED THAT CHANGING A SIMPLE HABIT MEANT PUTTING MY REPUTATION AT RISK.
HUH...
SHE NEVER CHANGES.
SOMETHING DIFFERENT IS NICE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...BUT SHE'S STILL THE SAME OLD SUMIRE.
I LIKE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE.
BUT SUMIRE STILL CAN'T SMOKE IN FRONT OF HASUMI...
ONCE YOU QUIT SMOKING, FOOD TASTES SO MUCH BETTER! DON'T YOU AGREE?
UH, Y-YEAH...

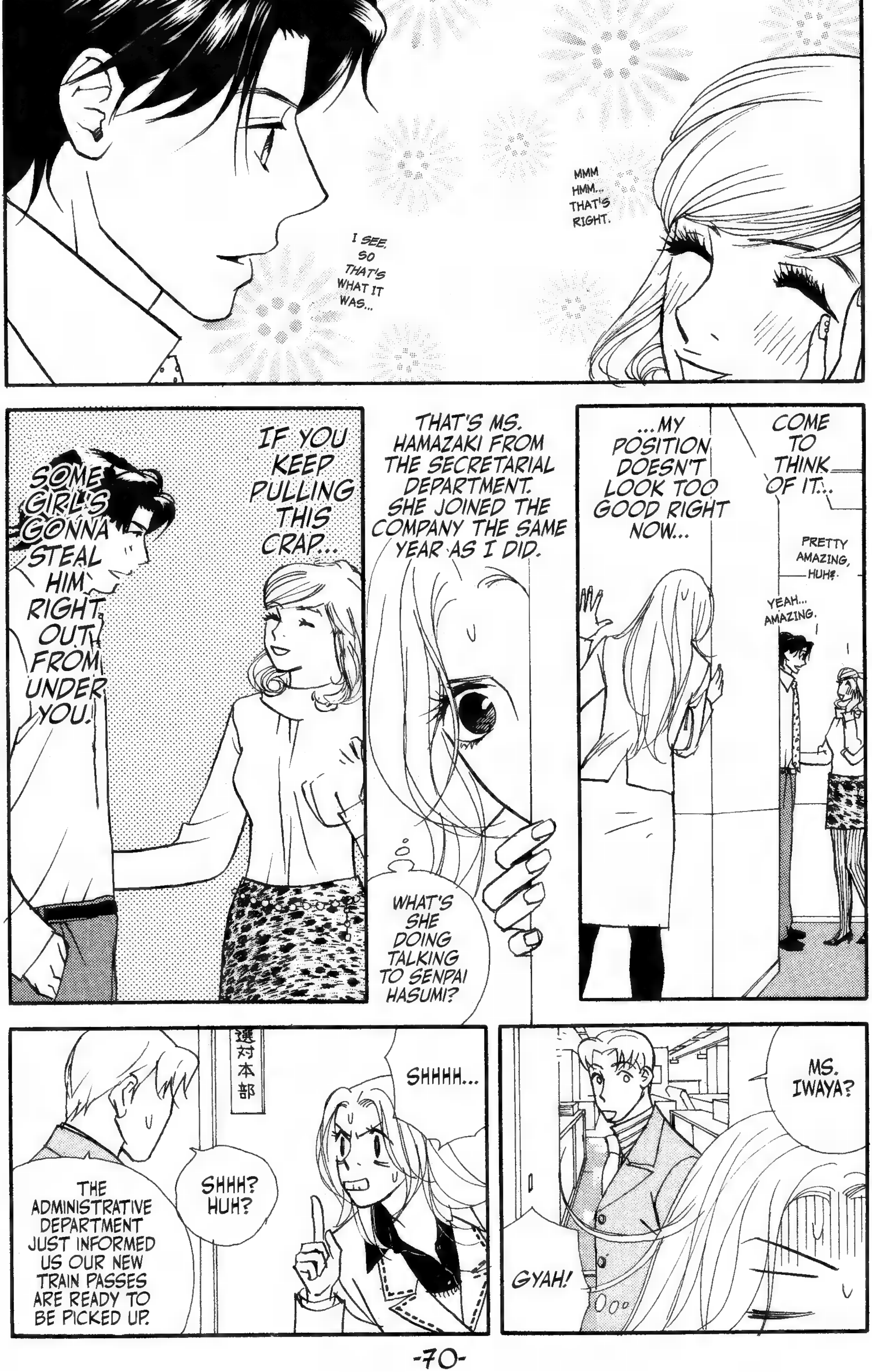
RULE 7:
IS HE LONESOME TONIGHT?

MY MISTRESS IS CONSIDERED A CAREER WOMAN IN HER CIRCLES.
BUT SURPRIS-INGLY, SHE'S VERY DOMESTIC.
TAKE COOKING, FOR INSTANCE.
EVERY NIGHT WHEN SHE COMES HOME FROM WORK, SHE COOKS MY FOOD... RIGHT AWAY!
IT'S REALLY GOOD, TOO.
SHE'S VERY NEAT AND EFFICIENT IN THE KITCHEN.
OOPS...
...WRONG BUTT.
THIS IS YURI, AN OLD FRIEND OF MY MISTRESS.
SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT SHE'S THE SAME AGE AS MY MISTRESS.
WHAT DID YOU SAY I LOOK LIKE...?
PLEASE REFER TO THE FIRST VOLUME.♡

TONIGHT MY MISTRESS IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP, SO SHE'S HERE TO FEED ME INSTEAD.
HEY! THIS SAUSAGE ISN'T CUT IN THE SHAPE OF AN OCTOPUS...
JUST SHUT UP AND EAT IT.
I WANT STEWED SHARK FIN TOMORROW! ♡
WHAT KIND OF SPOILED BRAT ARE YOU?
SIGH... I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.
IS TAKING CARE OF THIS KID EVEN WORTH A FERRAGAMO HANDBAG...?
PLEASE... LET'S MAKE A DEAL!
YEAH, YEAH-- THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!
"YURI JUST LOVES THAT FELLA" THINGY...
FERRAGAMO. GAMO!
FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF...
SHHH...
SUMIRE'S FOOTSTEPS--!
YAHOOOO!!♡
YOU'RE KIDDING--?!


WELCOME HOOOOME!
OW.
THIS IS MY REAL MISTRESS. ♥
HEY-- DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
WHY ARE YOU BACK SO EARLY?
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE STAYING AT HASUMI'S PLACE TONIGHT?
HUH?! YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE ON A BUSINESS TRIP!
QUIET, PET.
WELL... SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP, SO I COULDN'T STAY WITH HIM...
BESIDES, SENPAI HASUMI WAS ALSO REALLY BUSY. LOTS OF HIS CO-WORKERS WERE OUT SICK.
SO I DIDN'T THINK I SHOULD FORCE HIM TO MAKE EXTRA TIME FOR ME...

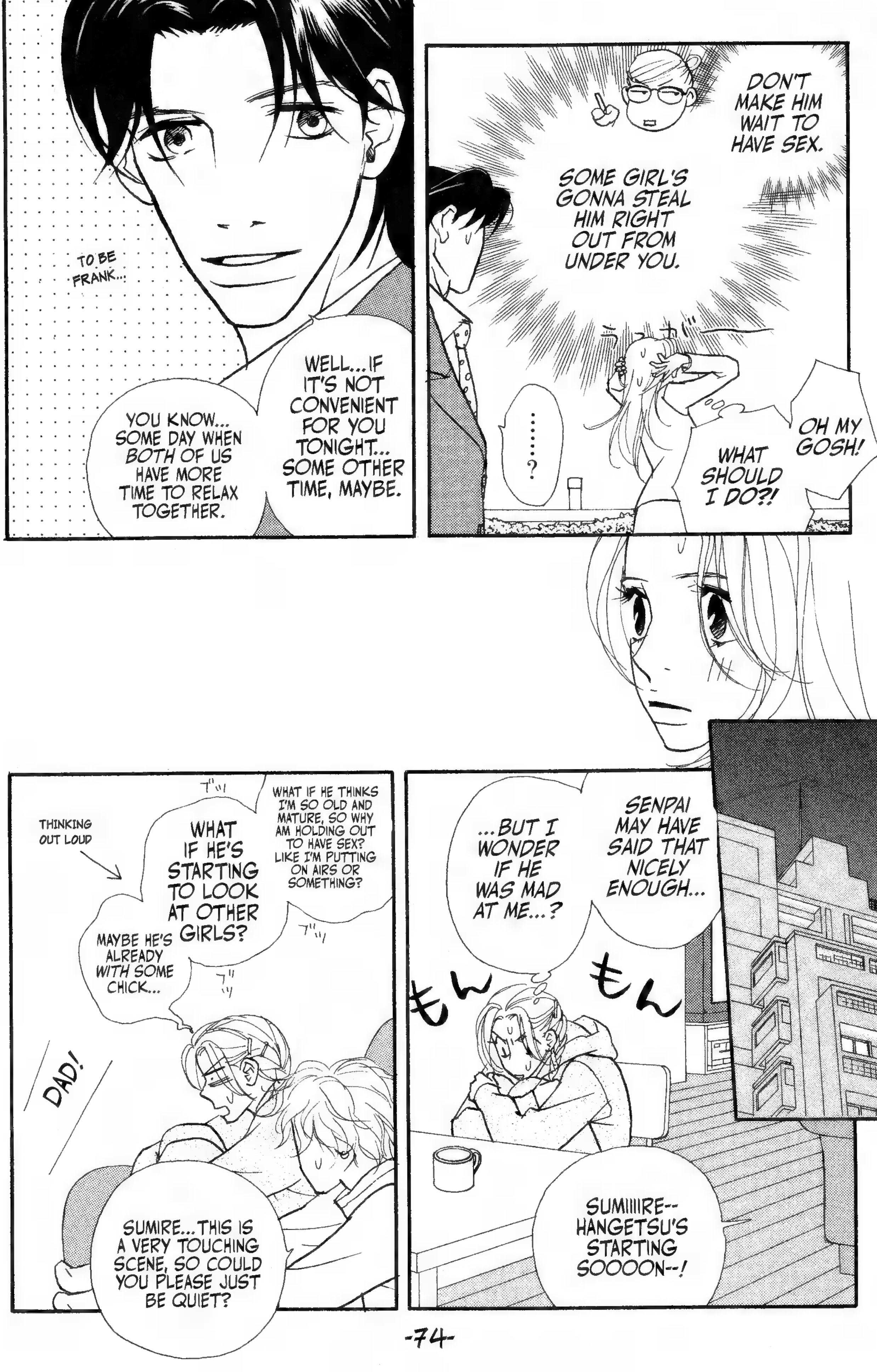
SUMIRE.
YES?
YOU THINK TOO MUCH!
Y'KNOW HOW YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING MR. HASUMI IS SO HANDSOME AND POPULAR?
WELL, IF YOU KEEP PULLING THIS CRAP, SOME GIRL'S GONNA STEAL HIM RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER YOU. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I-I THINK SO.
GOOD. THEN IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU...
...DON'T MAKE HIM WAIT TO HAVE SEX.
IT'S REALLY NOT A BIG DEAL.
OKAY, THIS IS NOT FOR RAN-CHAN'S EARS!
AW, C'MON. THAT KIND OF THING WILL JUST HAPPEN WHEN IT HAPPENS...
OW-- OUCH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!!!
LOVE IS WAR... IT'S TAKE OR BE TAKEN.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN WITHOUT USING YOUR "FEMALE WEAPON"!!!


MMM HMM... THAT'S RIGHT.
I SEE. SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...MY POSITION DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD RIGHT NOW...
PRETTY AMAZING, HUH?
YEAH... AMAZING.
THAT'S MS. HAMAZAKI FROM THE SECRETARIAL DEPARTMENT. SHE JOINED THE COMPANY THE SAME YEAR AS I DID.
WHAT'S SHE DOING TALKING TO SENPAI HASUMI?
IF YOU KEEP PULLING THIS CRAP...
SOME GIRL'S GONNA STEAL HIM RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER YOU.
MS. IWAYA?
GYAH!
選対本部
SHHHH...
SHHH? HUH?
THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT JUST INFORMED US OUR NEW TRAIN PASSES ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP.

OH, MS. IWAYA--I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
HAVE YOU EATEN LUNCH ALREADY? YOU WANNA GO TOGETHER?
TODAY'S SPECIAL LUNCH A IS A MISO-BASED STEWED MACKEREL (HER FAVORITE) IN THE CAFETERIA, SO SHE WAS ABOUT TO GO THERE.
SPECIAL LUNCH A
SURE.
HOW ABOUT THAT ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN THE URBAN BUILDING?
SURE...
AH... JUST TWO OF US...

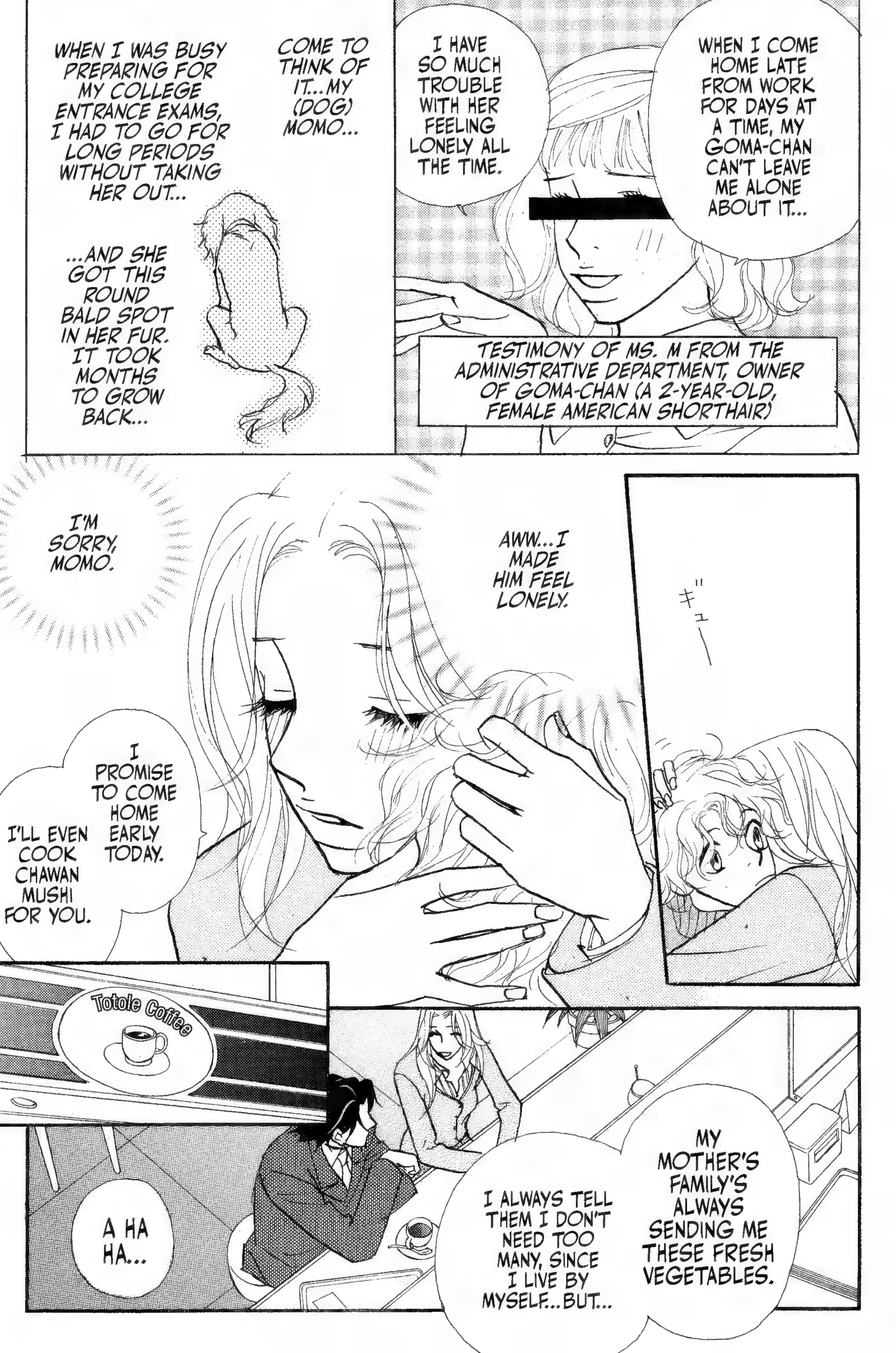
スッ
JUST AS I EXPECTED.
THE PERFECT TIMING AND SCENARIO TO KISS ME.
AND IT FEELS SO GOOD.
HI THERE.
OH, HI.

SO, TONIGHT ...
...WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE?
UH-OH... TONIGHT IS "TURTLE SHELL MECHA: HANGETSU'" NIGHT...A SPECIAL EFFECTS SHOW THAT ONLY COMES ON ONCE A MONTH...
BUT...I CAN'T REFUSE FOR A REASON LIKE THAT...
ドテッ
ドーン
バーン
DUMBASS! HOW COULD HE FALL DOWN NOW?
GO, HANGETSU!
FRONT ROW (ORCHESTRA SEATING)
AH... SURE...!
YOU'RE COMING?
はっ
DAMN! THERE ARE OTHER CONFLICTS FOR TODAY!!
1. MY LEGS AND ARMPITS AREN'T NICELY SHAVED!
2. MY BRA AND UNDERWEAR DON'T MATCH, AND AREN'T EVEN THE SAME COLOR!
3. IT'S A RISKY DAY OF THE MONTH (I THINK)!


DON'T MAKE HIM WAIT TO HAVE SEX.
SOME GIRL'S GONNA STEAL HIM RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER YOU.
OH MY GOSH!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
......?
TO BE FRANK...
WELL...IF IT'S NOT CONVENIENT FOR YOU TONIGHT... SOME OTHER TIME, MAYBE.
YOU KNOW... SOME DAY WHEN BOTH OF US HAVE MORE TIME TO RELAX TOGETHER.
SENPAI MAY HAVE SAID THAT NICELY ENOUGH...
...BUT I WONDER IF HE WAS MAD AT ME...?
もん
もん
SUMIIIIRE-- HANGETSU'S STARTING SOOOON--!
WHAT IF HE THINKS I'M SO OLD AND MATURE, SO WHY AM HOLDING OUT TO HAVE SEX? LIKE I'M PUTTING ON AIRS OR SOMETHING?
WHAT IF HE'S STARTING TO LOOK AT OTHER GIRLS?
MAYBE HE'S ALREADY WITH SOME CHICK...
THINKING OUT LOUD
DAD!
SUMIRE...THIS IS A VERY TOUCHING SCENE, SO COULD YOU PLEASE JUST BE QUIET?

IF THIS IS BOTHERING ME SO MUCH...
...I SHOULD'VE JUST GONE TO HIS PLACE.
WOW.
OH...GOOD MORNING, SUMIRE.
IT'S *NOT* A GOOD MORNING! WHY DO YOU SNEAK INTO MY BED WITHOUT ASKING ALL THE TIME?
AW, DON'T BE MAD. I DIDN'T *DO* ANYTHING.
ARE YOU *SURE?*
WELL...I TOUCHED YOUR BOOBIES A LITTLE...BUT THAT'S *IT!*
IT'S A JOKE. I'M JOKING.
DON'T THROW ME OUT...!
YOU SWEAR?
WINDOW
OF COURSE I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
ONCE I STARTED, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STOP MYSELF.

BATHROOM
HANGING ALL OVER ME!
HANGING ALL OVER ME!
STOP HANGING ALL OVER ME!
ARE YOU COMING BACK EARLY TODAY?
YOU'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY. YOU AREN'T EVEN HOME MUCH ANYMORE.
TELL ME, TELL ME!
REALLY?
YES, YES. REALLY.
FINE! I'LL TRY TO COME BACK EARLY TONIGHT!
YOU'RE ANNOYING, YOU KNOW THAT?
I MISS YOU SO MUCH ALL THE TIME... BUT I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
OKAY.

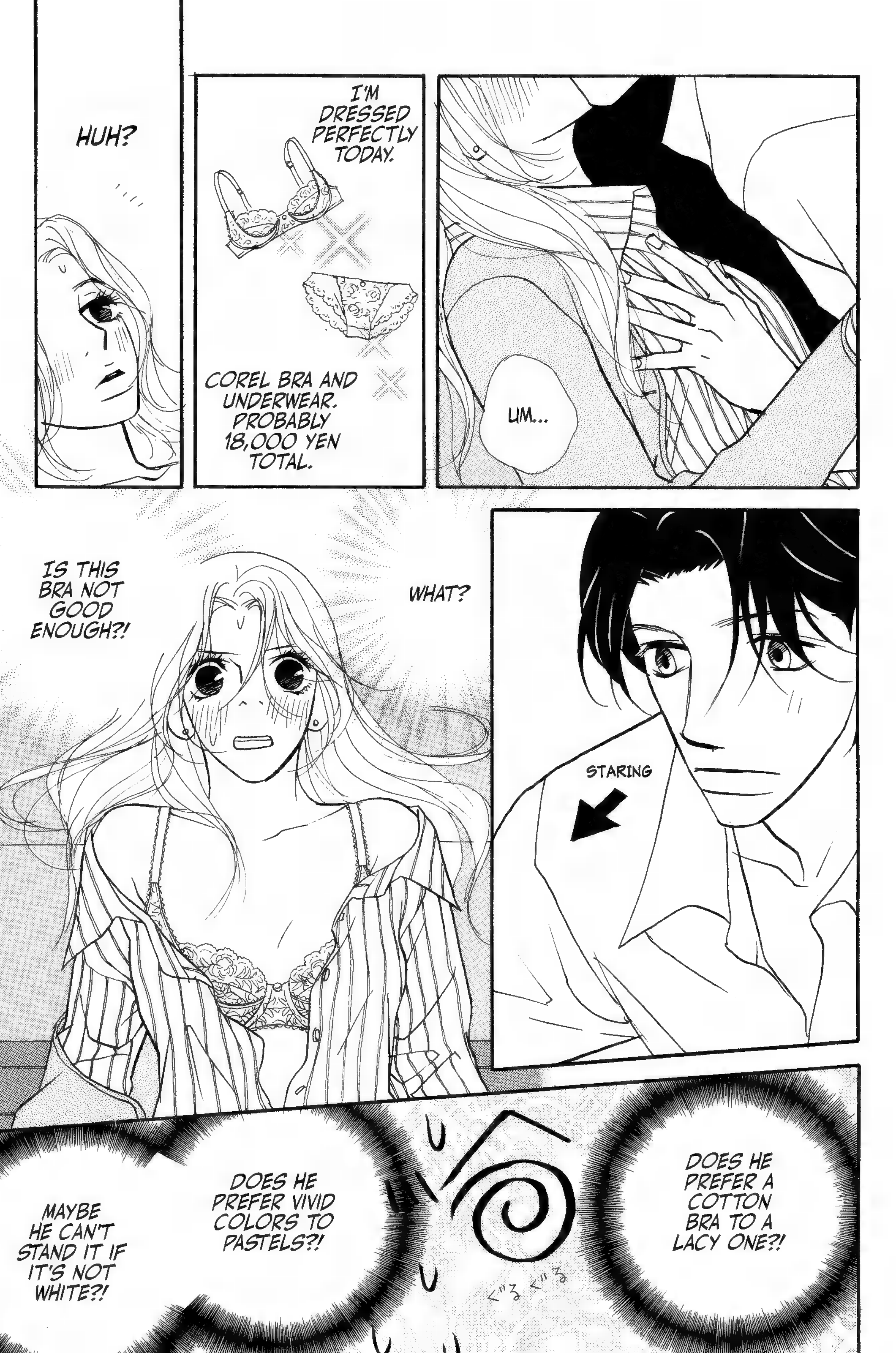


WHEN I COME HOME LATE FROM WORK FOR DAYS AT A TIME, MY GOMA-CHAN CAN'T LEAVE ME ALONE ABOUT IT...
I HAVE SO MUCH TROUBLE WITH HER FEELING LONELY ALL THE TIME.
TESTIMONY OF MS. M FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT, OWNER OF GOMA-CHAN (A 2-YEAR-OLD, FEMALE AMERICAN SHORTHAIR)
COME TO THINK OF IT...MY (DOG) MOMO...
WHEN I WAS BUSY PREPARING FOR MY COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS, I HAD TO GO FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT TAKING HER OUT...
...AND SHE GOT THIS ROUND BALD SPOT IN HER FUR. IT TOOK MONTHS TO GROW BACK...
ギュー
AWW...I MADE HIM FEEL LONELY.
I'M SORRY, MOMO.
I PROMISE TO COME HOME EARLY TODAY.
I'LL EVEN COOK CHAWAN MUSHI FOR YOU.
Totole Coffee
MY MOTHER'S FAMILY'S ALWAYS SENDING ME THESE FRESH VEGETABLES.
I ALWAYS TELL THEM I DON'T NEED TOO MANY, SINCE I LIVE BY MYSELF...BUT...
A HA HA...

I COOK FOR MYSELF, SO I REALLY ENVY YOU... TO HAVE FRESH INGREDIENTS LIKE THAT AVAILABLE ALL THE TIME!
TOTOLE
OH, REALLY? YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME OVER AND PICK SOME UP SOMETIME.
ACTU-ALLY...
...IF YOU COULD COME OVER AND COOK FOR ME...
...IT WOULD MAKE ME REALLY HAPPY...
DOES...
...HE REALLY WANT ME...
...TO COOK FOR HIM?
キラ
キラ
AH... WELL...
I COULD DO IT TONIGHT...
REALLY?!
DAMN IT...I PROMISED MOMO I'D COME HOME EARLY TONIGHT...
...BUT IT'S ONLY 20 MINUTES FROM HASUMI'S PLACE TO MINE.
IF I LEAVE HASUMI'S PLACE EARLY, I CAN PROBABLY COME HOME AT THE SAME TIME AS I USUALLY DO WHEN I WORK OVERTIME...

WOW... ♡
APPLE CUT IN SHAPE OF BUNNY
SAUSAGE CUT IN SHAPE OF OCTOPUS
KENCHIN (PORK MISO) SOUP
GOMOKU ("FIVE-INGREDIENT") RICE
CHERRY TOMATOES
FRENCH FRIES
FRIED SHRIMP
SERIOUSLY--EVERYTHING IS DELICIOUS!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT...
WITHOUT THINKING...
...I COOKED HIM EVERYTHING MOMO LIKES...
WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU LIKE GINGKO NUTS?
OH, SORRY--THEY'RE NOT MY FAVORITE.
I CAN EAT ONE OR TWO, BUT...
...I DON'T KNOW...WHEN THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM...
OH--I'M SORRY!
JUST HABIT, I GUESS.
DID YOU PUT IN GINGKO NUTS? A LOT? HUH?
YES, YES!
THANKS FOR DINNER...
OH--I'D BETTER CLEAN UP THE DISHES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HAVE A SEAT.

HAVE SOME COFFEE.
AH... THANK YOU.
OH--I GOT DESSERT FOR US, TOO!
CHERRY PIE FROM THE KINOKUNIYA SWEET SHOP!
I REMEMBER YOU SAYING THAT YOU LIKED THEIR STUFF, SENPAI--
LET'S HAVE IT LATER.
I CALLED IT, ALL RIGHT. BUT THAT'S OKAY...
SENPAI...
RIGHT NOW...
...YOU'RE GONNA SAY IT, AREN'T YOU...
I'M HUNGRY FOR YOU...


UM...
I'M DRESSED PERFECTLY TODAY.
COREL BRA AND UNDERWEAR. PROBABLY 18,000 YEN TOTAL.
HUH?
STARING
WHAT?
IS THIS BRA NOT GOOD ENOUGH?!
DOES HE PREFER A COTTON BRA TO A LACY ONE?!
DOES HE PREFER VIVID COLORS TO PASTELS?!
MAYBE HE CAN'T STAND IT IF IT'S NOT WHITE?!
ぐるぐる

YOU'RE JUST SO CUTE.
OH...
I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE.
EH?
KYAAAHH--!
EVERY GIRL'S DREAM--TO BE HELD LIKE A PRINCESS.
SENPAI... THIS IS SO SWEET, BUT...
I ACTUALLY HAVE MUSCLES...I'M HEAVIER THAN YOU THINK.
THINKS HE'LL DROP HER IF SHE DOESN'T HANG ON
I WONDER IF HE THINKS I'M HEAVY! YES--HE MUST!!

I LOVE YOU...
ESPECIALLY TODAY!!
HYPERVENTILATING
OH... THIS ISN'T GOOD...
I'M ALL TENSE... AND MY FINGERS ARE GETTING NUMB...
BUT I CAN'T SAY NO ANYMORE.
I HAVE TO HANG ON.
STEREO SOUND
AH...

カタン
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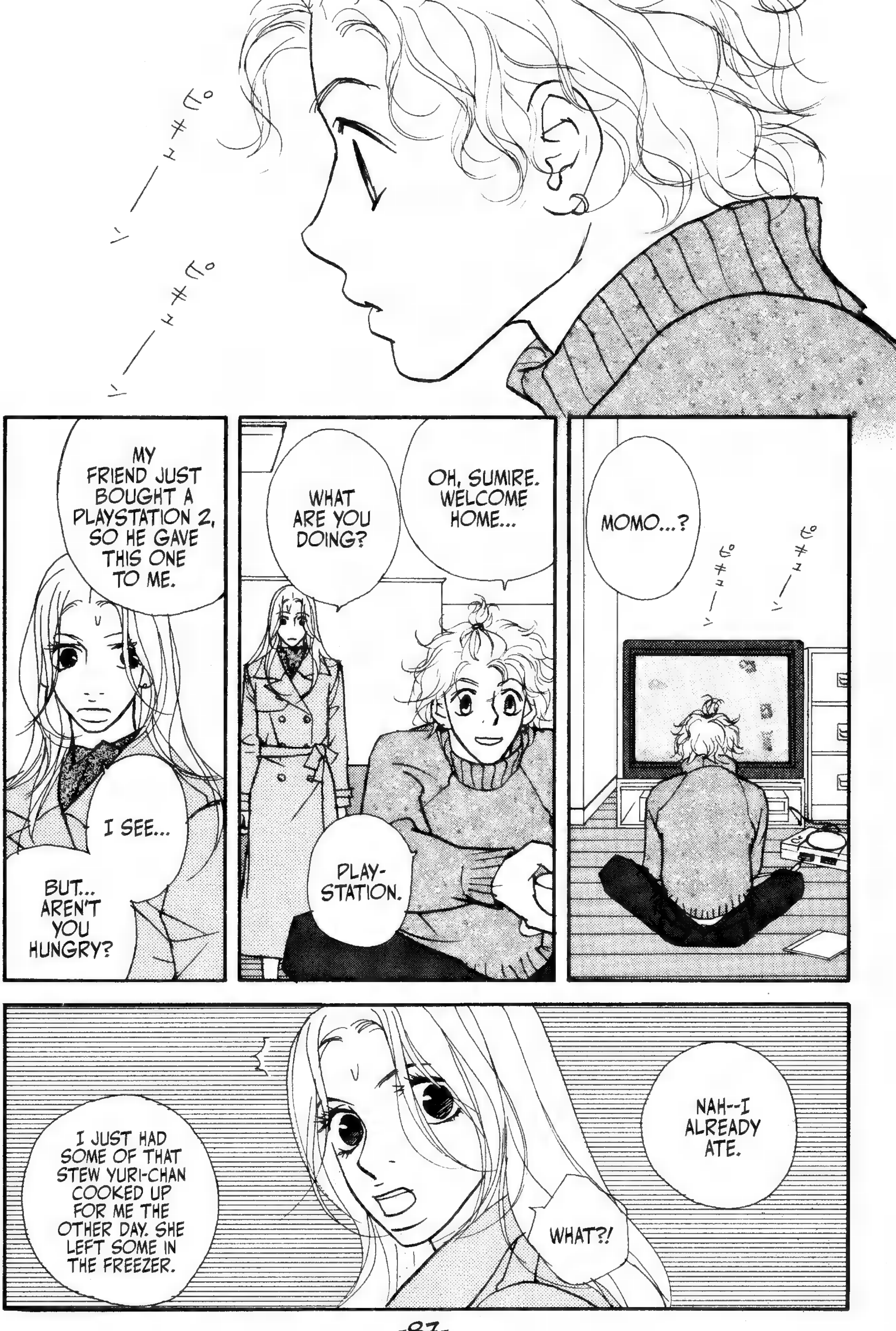
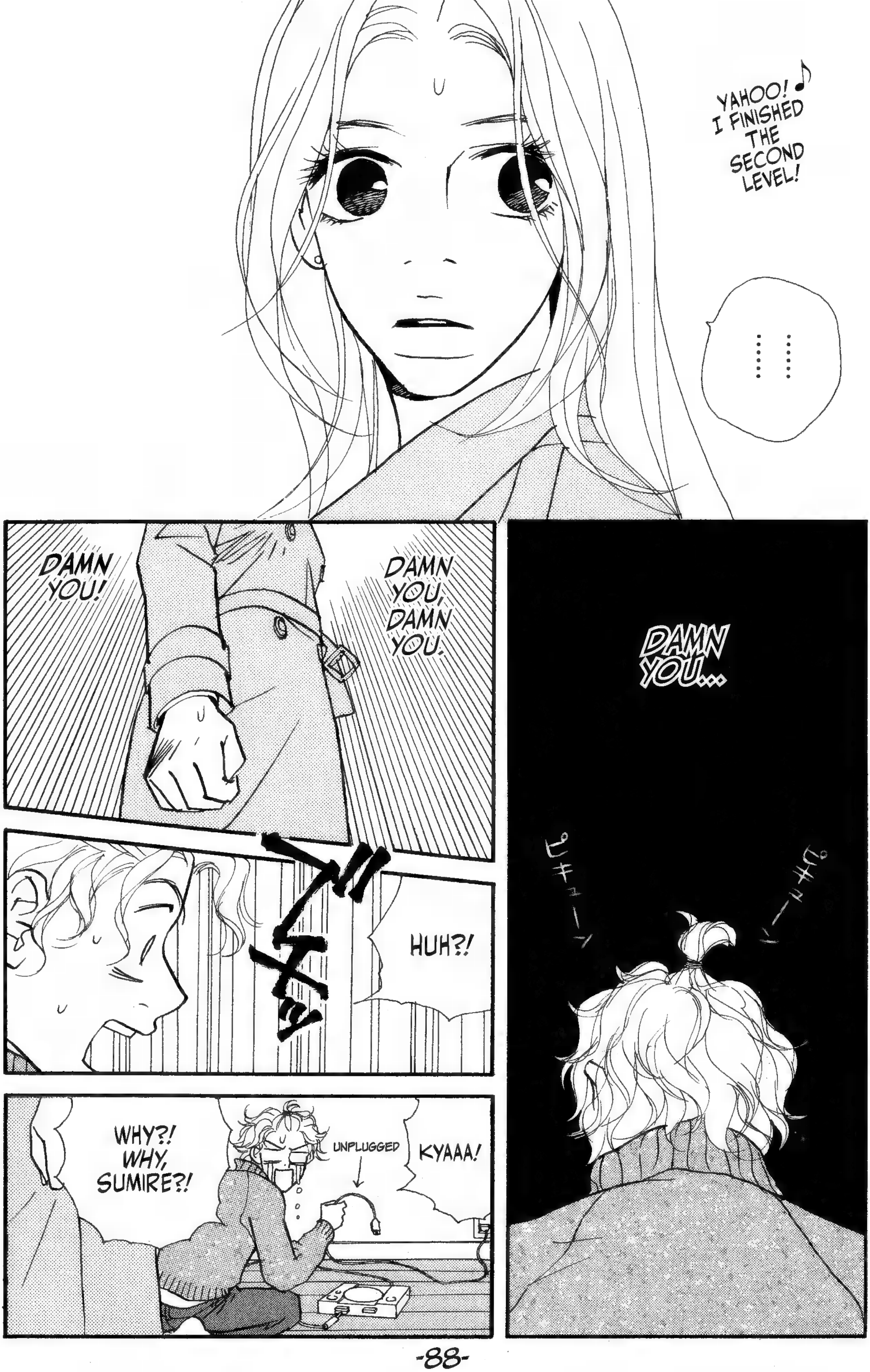
カタン
カタン
IT...
...MIGHT BE OVER NOW.
NO...NO "MIGHT" ABOUT IT.
IT'S DEFINITELY OVER!!
I MUST ACCEPT THE SAD TRUTH--!!

AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT MOMENT...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE...I...
AH...
...I GOT A CHARLEY HORSE IN MY LEG...
OUCH--!!
MS. IWAYA?!
DISASTEROUS INCIDENTS SHE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO REMEMBER.
THEN SENPAI HASUMI LOST HIS COMPOSURE AND KNOCKED OVER THE ELECTRIC HEATER...
WHOA!
...WHEN HE FELL, HE HIT HIS HEAD ON THE CORNER OF A TABLE...
EH?!
OUCH.
...AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THE STUDENT WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR WAS STUDYING FOR HIS COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS. SO HE HAD TO YELL AT US...
SHUT UP!!!
BOX CUTTER
I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE...
...THAT WE'RE CURSED FOR SOME REASON.
FUA HA HA HA!
BESIDES, I JUST LEFT POOR SENPAI THERE AND WENT HOME.
HE MUST THINK I'M REALLY COLD...
BUT...
URIGAOKA CITY TOWER
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

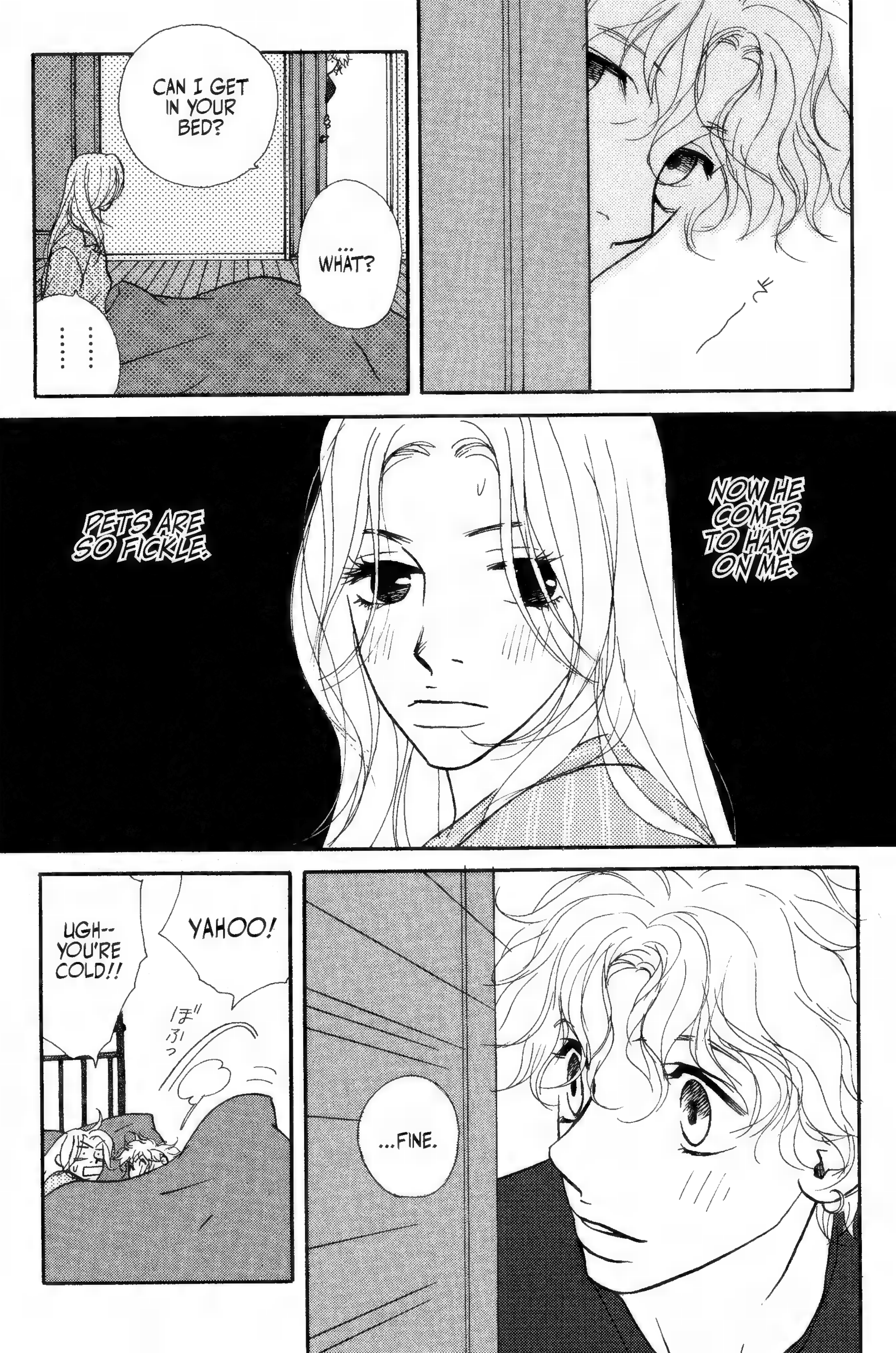
BUT...
I MISS YOU SO MUCH ALL THE TIME... BUT I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
HUFF
HUFF
WELCOME HOME...!
EH?


ピキューン
ピキューン
MOMO...?
ピキューン
ピキューン
OH, SUMIRE. WELCOME HOME...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PLAY-STATION.
MY FRIEND JUST BOUGHT A PLAYSTATION 2, SO HE GAVE THIS ONE TO ME.
I SEE...
BUT... AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
NAH--I ALREADY ATE.
WHAT?!
I JUST HAD SOME OF THAT STEW YURI-CHAN COOKED UP FOR ME THE OTHER DAY. SHE LEFT SOME IN THE FREEZER.


YAHOO! ♪ I FINISHED THE SECOND LEVEL!
……
DAMN YOU...
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU, DAMN YOU.
HUH?!
KYAAA!
UNPLUGGED
WHY?! WHY, SUMIRE?!

DAMN THAT MOMO--I'M GONNA THROW HIM OUT!
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING-- JUST YOU WAIT!!
FUTON
RRR...
HELLO ...?
AH, YES... THIS IS HASUMI.
ARE YOU ASLEEP ALREADY?
I DON'T KNOW...I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE BEFORE I WENT TO BED.
I'M SORRY TONIGHT ENDED UP SO CHAOTIC.
NO--IT'S FINE...!
I'M... ALSO... SORRY...
AH--AHA HA HA HA HA!
A-ARE YOU LAUGHING?!
I'M SORRY.

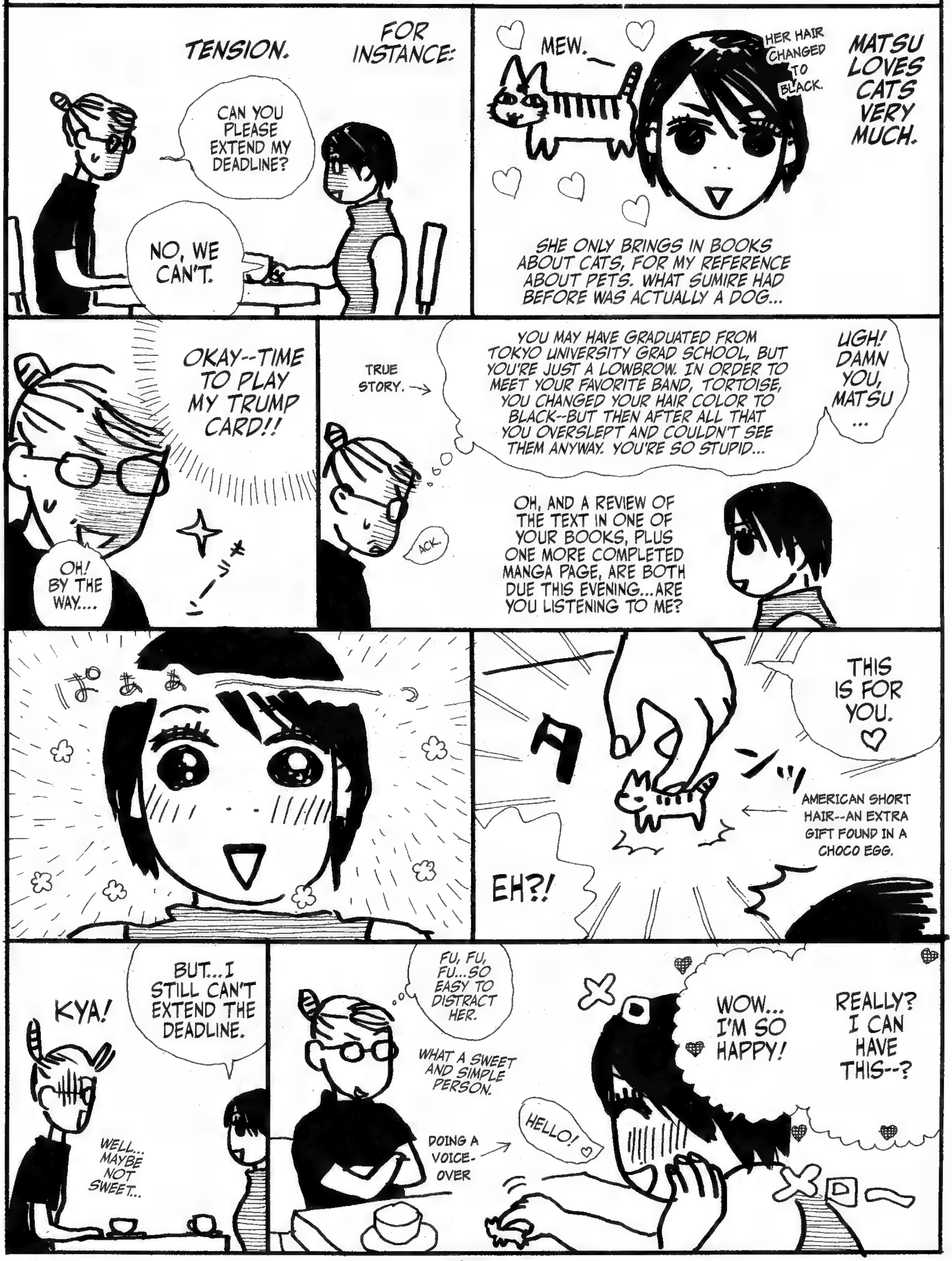
SENPAI...
HE ISN'T MAD AT ME...!
WHEN YOU HAVEN'T EXERCISED IN A WHILE, YOU TEND TO CRAMP UP.
HOW 'BOUT JOINING ME FOR TENNIS NEXT TIME?
WELL... IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
......
ばふっ
SO...
...HE ISN'T MAD AT ME...
SUMIRE...?


CAN I GET IN YOUR BED?
...WHAT?
......
NOW HE COMES TO HANG ON ME.
PETS ARE SO FICKLE.
...FINE.
YAHOO!
ぼふっ
UGH-- YOU'RE COLD!!

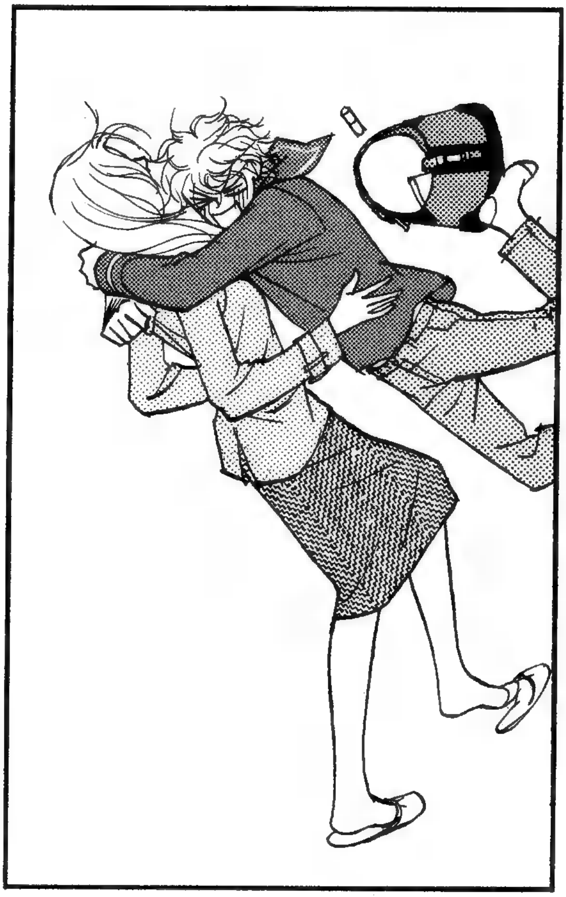
I GUESS I OVERWORKED MYSELF A LITTLE BIT.
ARE YOU STUPID? YOU CAN CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT!
YOU WEREN'T OUTSIDE FOR LONG, WERE YOU?
...I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE MAD AT ME, SUMIRE.
I SHOULD SLOW DOWN AND GO AT MY OWN PACE TOMORROW.
I SHOULD LEARN FROM MY PET.
ARE YOU WARMING UP NOW?
...YES.
YOU REALIZE...
THAT IF YOU TOUCH ME, TOMORROW YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER WEARING CEMENT SHOES.
I KNOW...

OGAWA VERSION

Ma-chan goes for it! ②

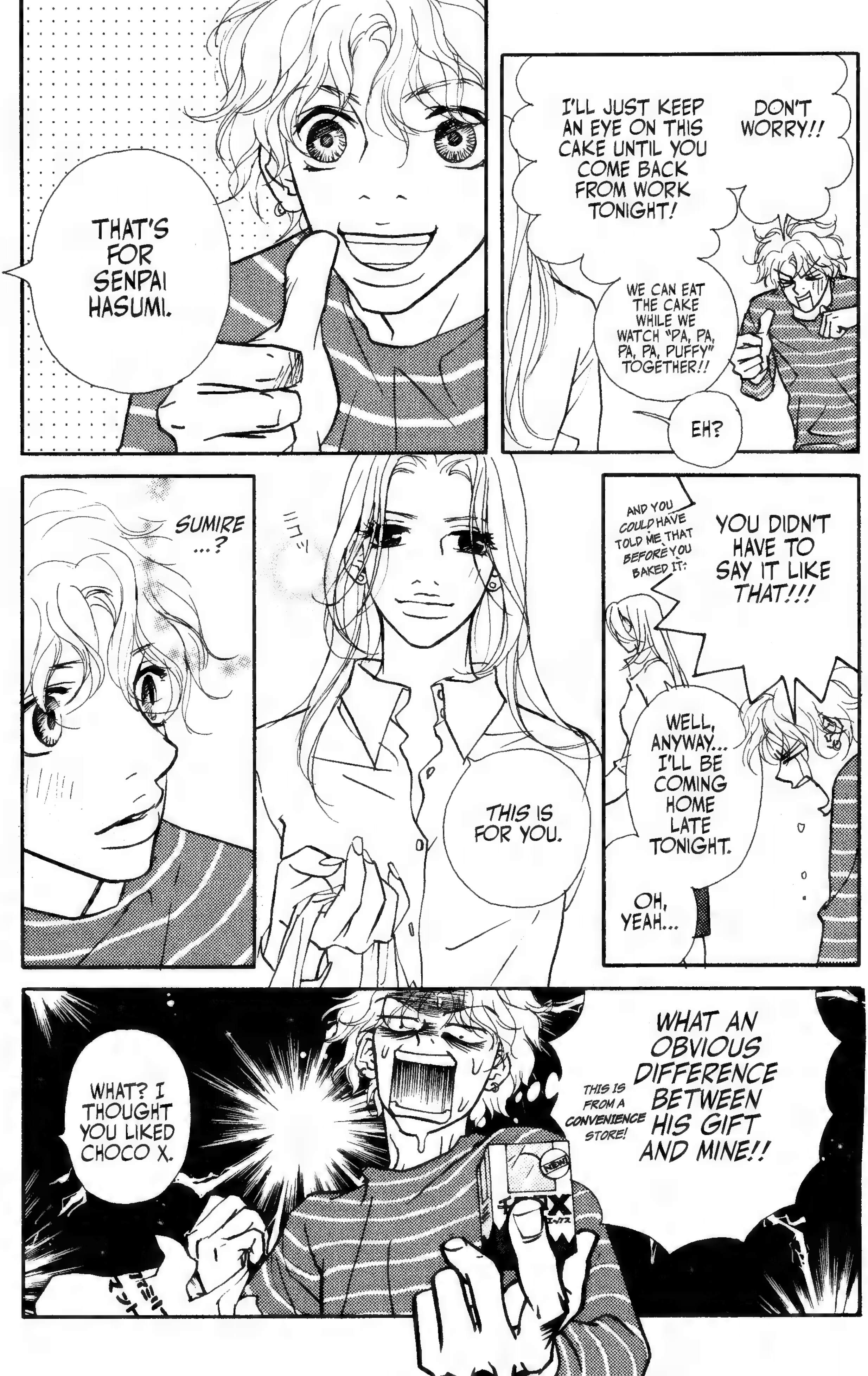


RULE 8: I'LL SHOW YOU DISCIPLINE



SOMETIMES, I WONDER ABOUT SOMETHING.
I WONDER IF COMPANION ANIMALS, WHICH ARE KEPT BY HUMANS, ARE AWARE THAT THEY ARE PETS...AND IF SO, DO THEY TRY TO IMPRESS THEIR MASTERS?
FOR INSTANCE, IN THE CASE OF A RABBIT: "I'M CUTE, BUT I'D BETTER NOT MOVE MY NOSE TOO MUCH, OR IT'LL ANNOY MY MASTER."
OR IN THE CASE OF A FISH: "I SHOULD POOP OUT AS LONG A PIECE OF EXCREMENT AS POSSIBLE. THAT WOULD REALLY PLEASE MY MASTER."
INCIDENTALLY, I'M A REALLY HARD WORKER.
Ground Rules:
• Don't kiss mistress on the cheek in public.
• Don't sneak out to eat food.
• Don't sneak into bed without permission.
• Don't disturb mistress while she is reading the newspaper.
• Don't wear dirty clothes more than once.
BUT YOU SEE, THERE ARE SO MANY RULES BETWEEN MY MISTRESS AND ME.
WHAT'S THAT? YOU THINK IT MUST BE HARD TO KEEP SUCH STRICT RULES?
NOT REALLY.
AFTER ALL, I AM A HUMAN BEING.

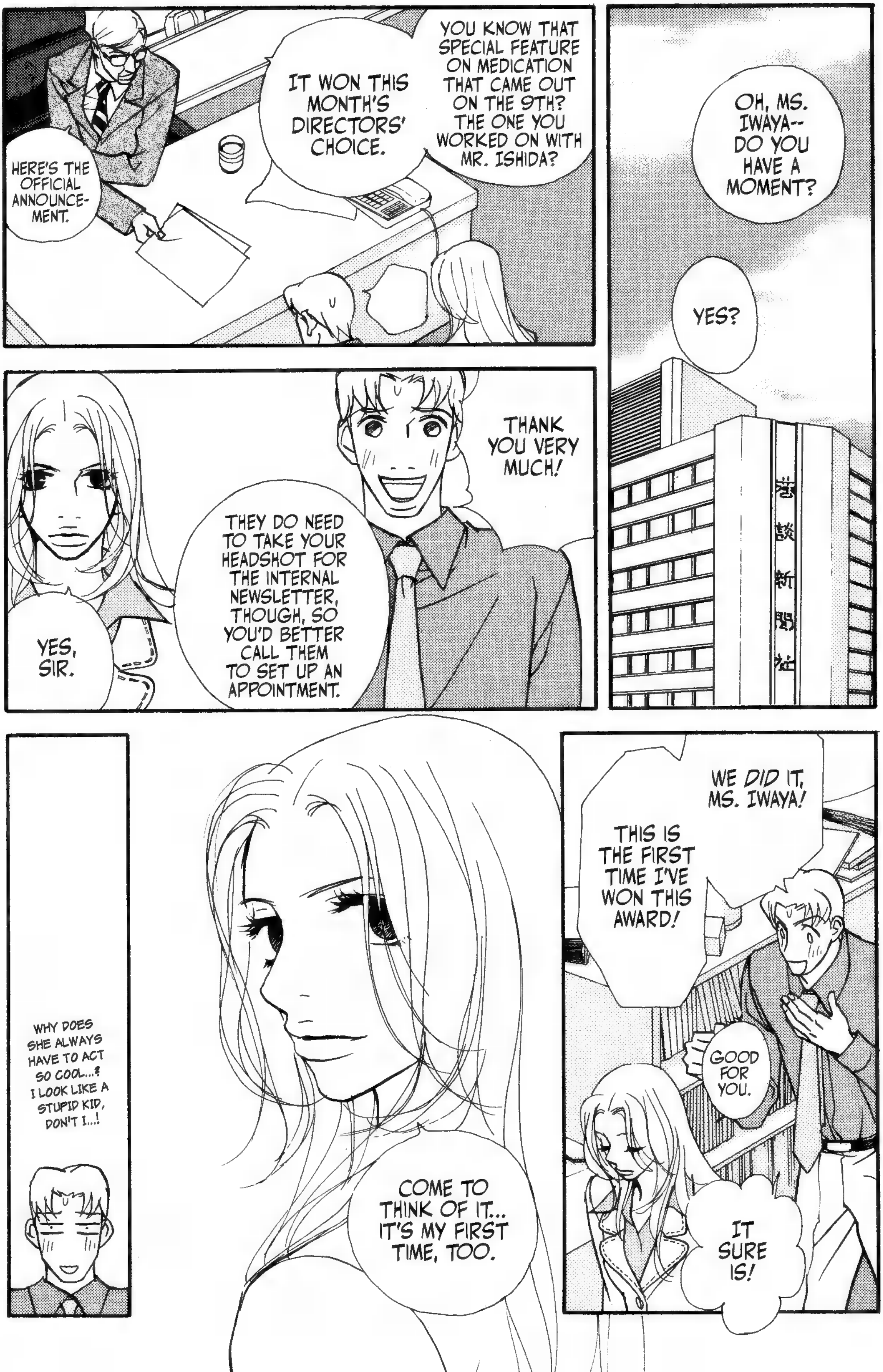
AND BESIDES... SOMETIMES IT'S THE MASTER WHO IS MANIPULATED BY THE PET...
...DON'T YOU AGREE?
WHAT DO I MEAN BY THAT?
WELL, LET'S GO BACK TO ABOUT A MONTH AGO.
KYAAAA! ♡
AWESOME!
THIS LOOKS SO DELICIOUS, SUMIRE!
EEK--IT'S ALREADY TIME.

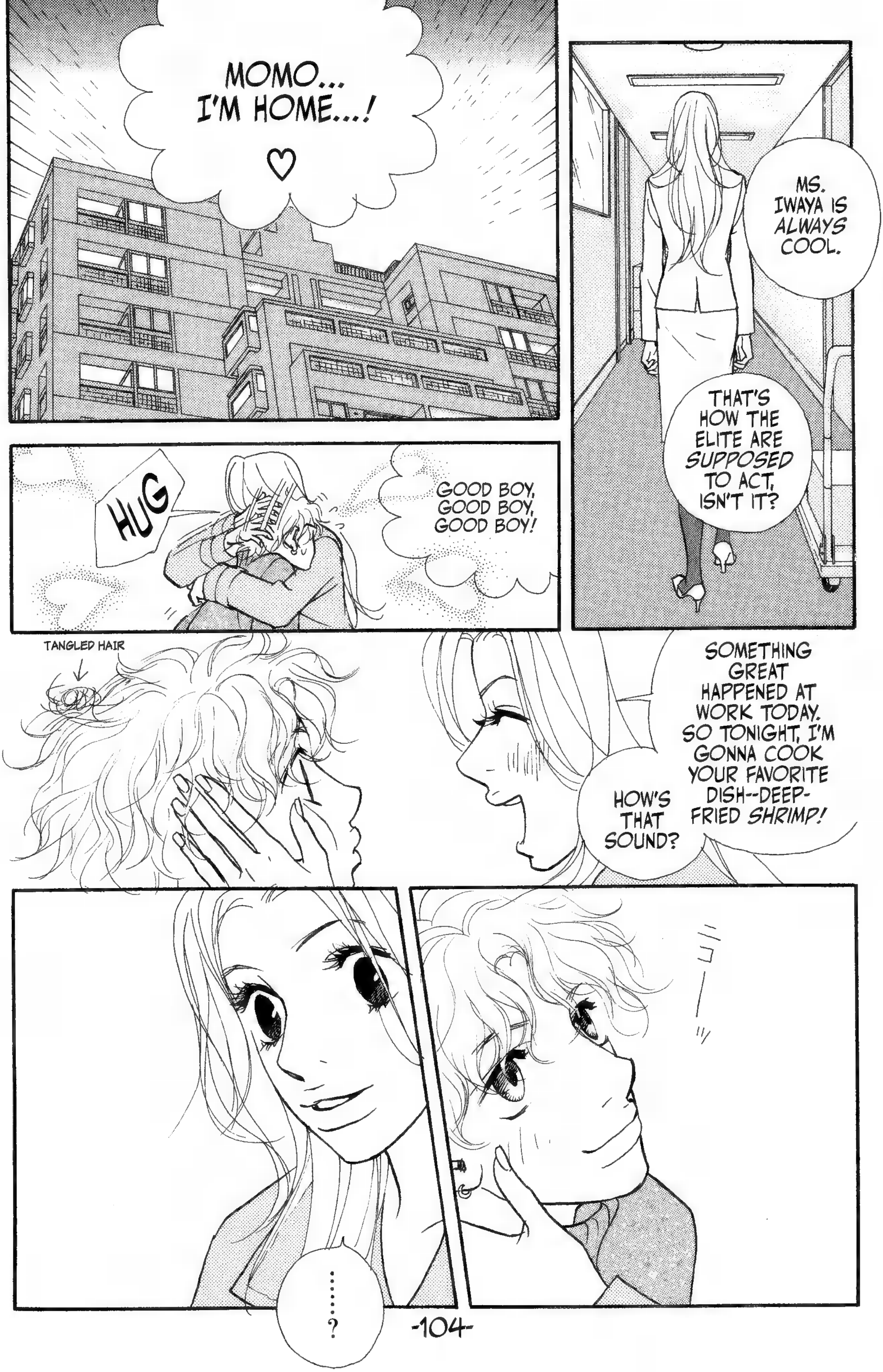

DON'T WORRY!!
I'LL JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THIS CAKE UNTIL YOU COME BACK FROM WORK TONIGHT!
WE CAN EAT THE CAKE WHILE WE WATCH "PA, PA, PA, PA, PUFFY" TOGETHER!!
EH?
THAT'S FOR SENPAI HASUMI.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT!!!
AND YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT BEFORE YOU BAKED IT.
WELL, ANYWAY... I'LL BE COMING HOME LATE TONIGHT.
OH, YEAH...
THIS IS FOR YOU.
ニコッ
SUMIRE ...?
WHAT AN OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS GIFT AND MINE!!
THIS IS FROM A CONVENIENCE STORE!
WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED CHOCO X.

* MEANING HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED THIS ITEM BEFORE.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THIS TYPE OF BRATTINESS IS TYPICAL FOR ME.
ACTUALLY, I KINDA APPRECIATE THIS CHOCO X MY MISTRESS GAVE ME FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
BUT I DO FEEL THE NEED TO REMIND HER OF MY VALUE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ

コクン
DON'T SNEAK FOOD OFF THE TABLE!
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON, SO GO OVER THERE AND WAIT FOR IT!
スタ スタ スタ
......
IN FRENCH, YOU CAN SAY MERD! DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
HMM...HE'S LEARNED TO BEHAVE HIMSELF VERY WELL.
I'M IMPRESSED.

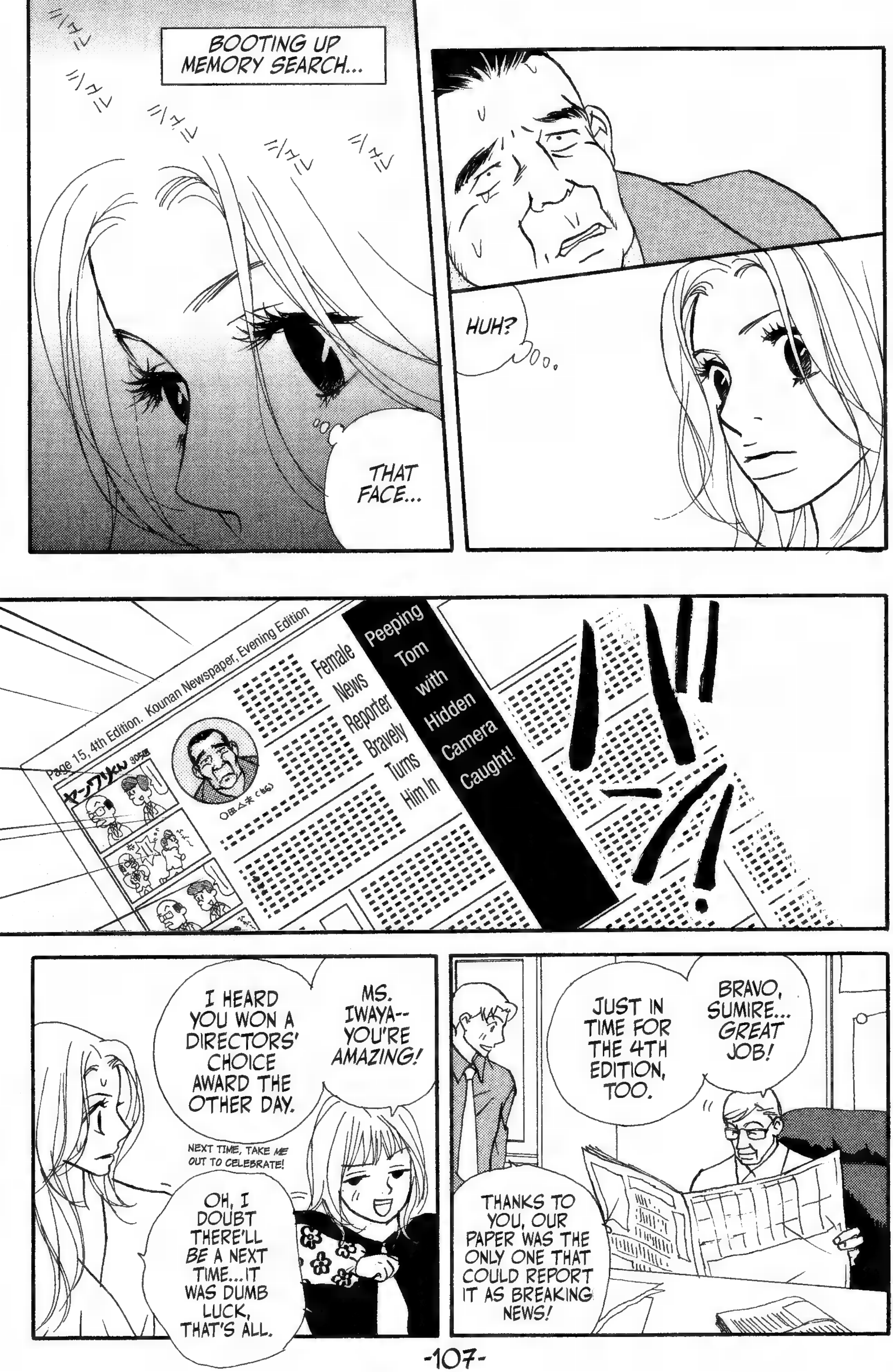

OH, MS. IWAYA-- DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
YES?
YOU KNOW THAT SPECIAL FEATURE ON MEDICATION THAT CAME OUT ON THE 9TH? THE ONE YOU WORKED ON WITH MR. ISHIDA?
IT WON THIS MONTH'S DIRECTORS' CHOICE.
HERE'S THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THEY DO NEED TO TAKE YOUR HEADSHOT FOR THE INTERNAL NEWSLETTER, THOUGH, SO YOU'D BETTER CALL THEM TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.
YES, SIR.
WE DID IT, MS. IWAYA!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE WON THIS AWARD!
GOOD FOR YOU.
IT SURE IS!
COME TO THINK OF IT... IT'S MY FIRST TIME, TOO.
WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS HAVE TO ACT SO COOL...? I LOOK LIKE A STUPID KID, DON'T I...!



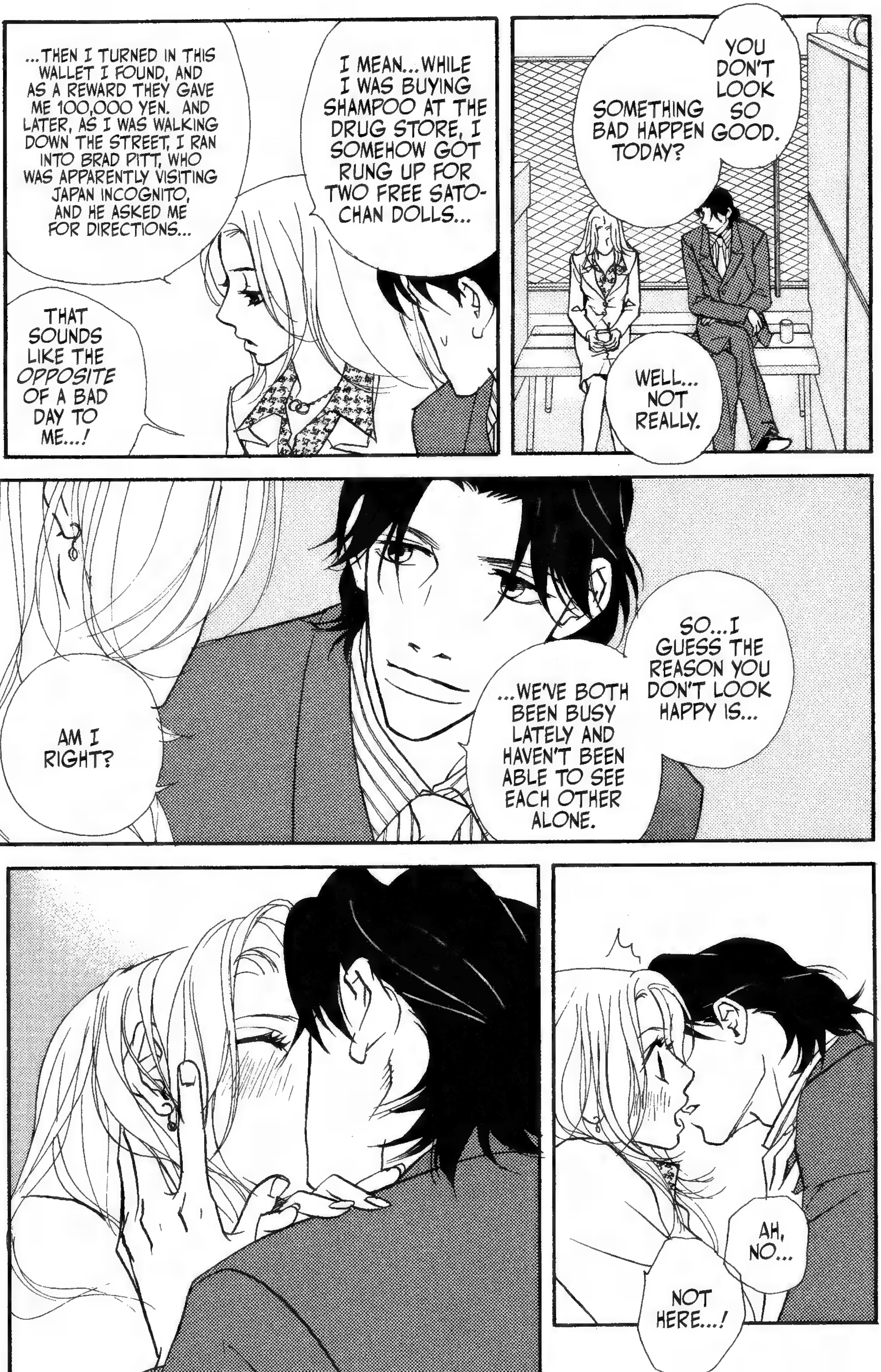
MS. IWAYA IS ALWAYS COOL.
THAT'S HOW THE ELITE ARE SUPPOSED TO ACT, ISN'T IT?
MOMO... I'M HOME...! ♡
GOOD BOY, GOOD BOY, GOOD BOY!
HUG
SOMETHING GREAT HAPPENED AT WORK TODAY. SO TONIGHT, I'M GONNA COOK YOUR FAVORITE DISH--DEEP-FRIED SHRIMP!
HOW'S THAT SOUND?
TANGLED HAIR
......?

SOMETHING SEEMS DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM...
WHAT IS IT...?
?
......
......
LE

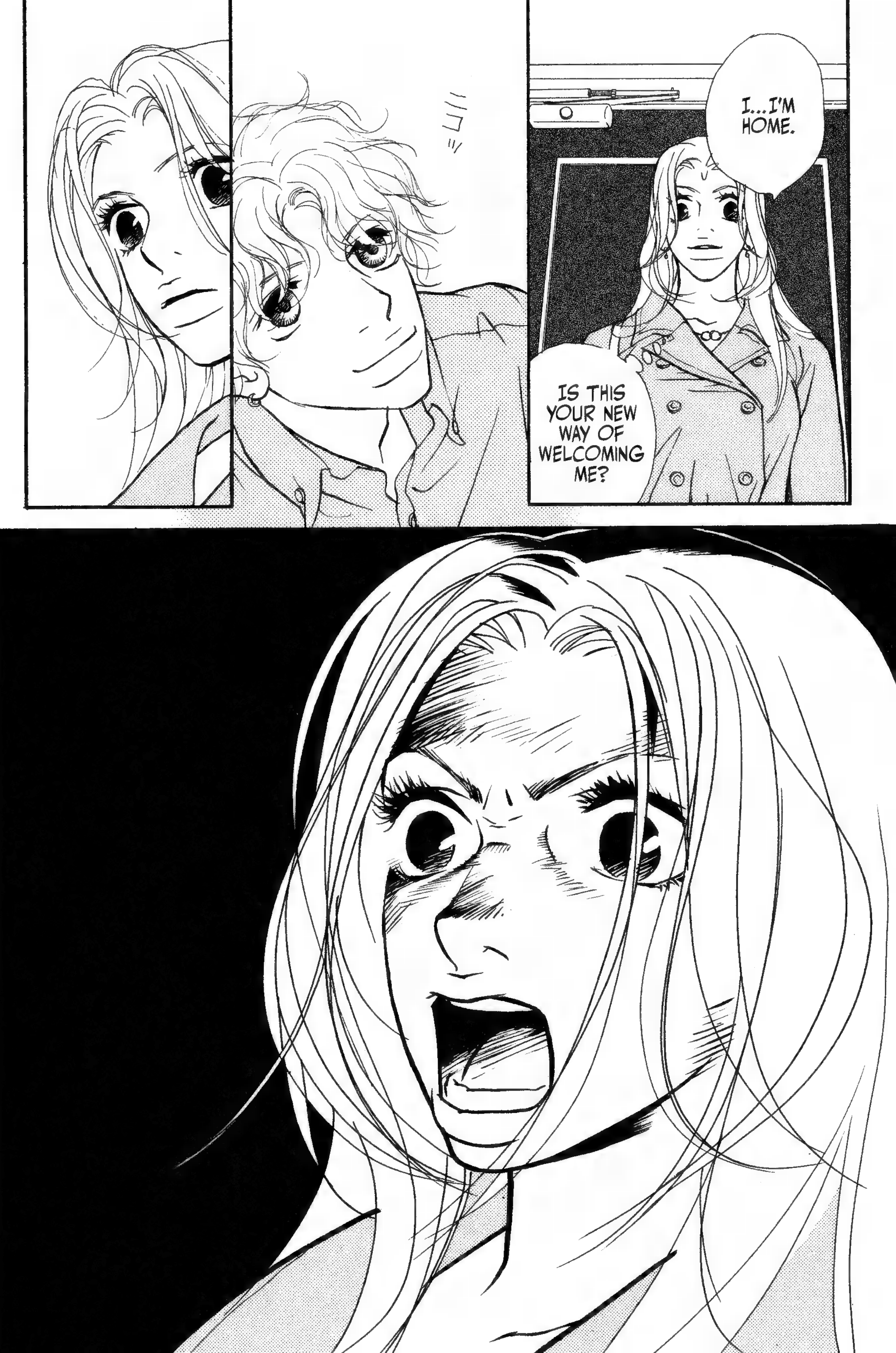
?
GUPPER
HEY-- WHAT'S IN THE BAG?
LET'S ASK STATION SECURITY, SHALL WE?

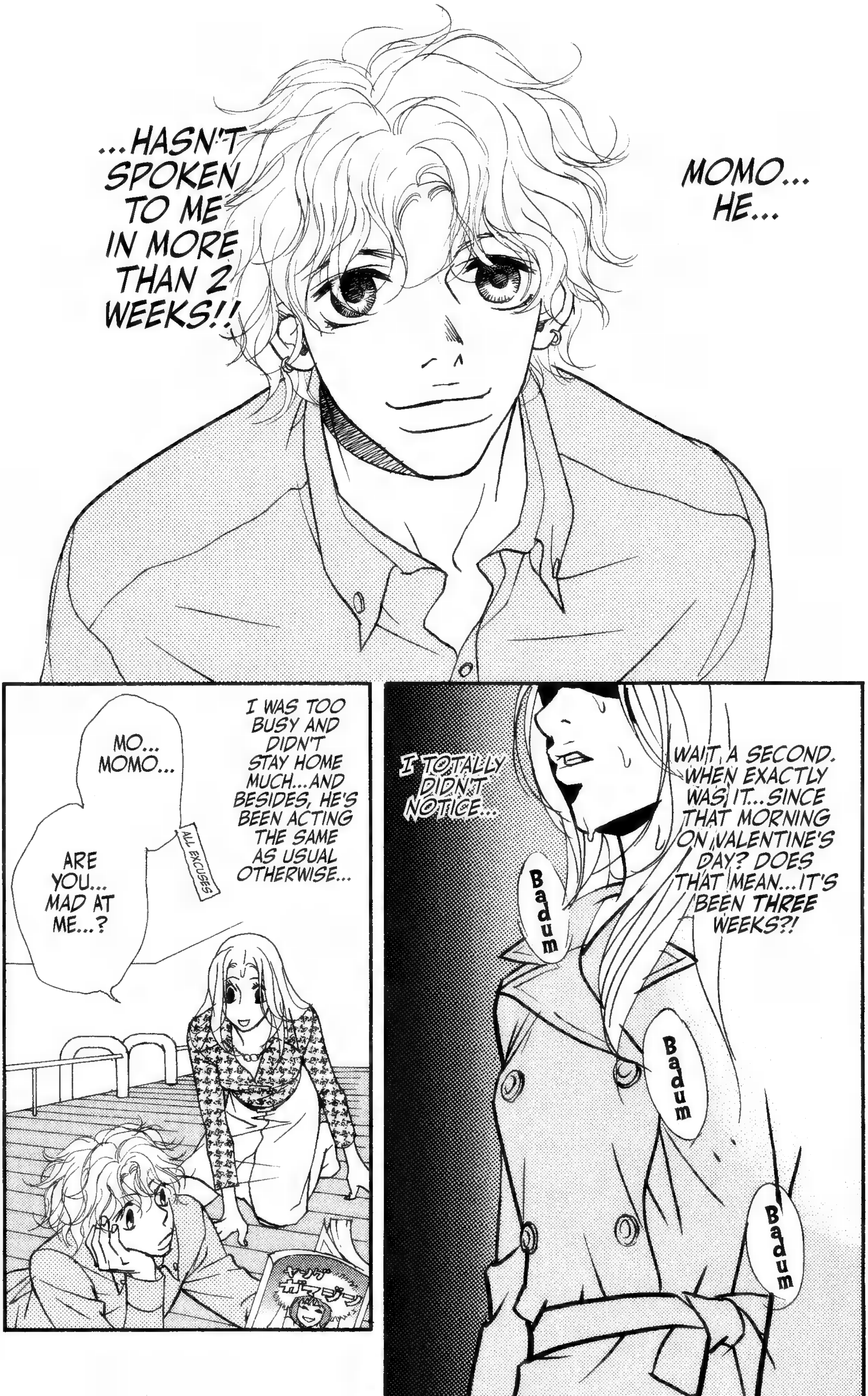

HUH?
BOOTING UP MEMORY SEARCH...
THAT FACE...
Page 15, 4th Edition. Kounan Newspaper, Evening Edition
Peeping Tom with Hidden Camera Caught!
Female News Reporter Bravely Turns Him In
BRAVO, SUMIRE... GREAT JOB!
JUST IN TIME FOR THE 4TH EDITION, TOO.
THANKS TO YOU, OUR PAPER WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD REPORT IT AS BREAKING NEWS!
MS. IWAYA-- YOU'RE AMAZING!
I HEARD YOU WON A DIRECTORS' CHOICE AWARD THE OTHER DAY.
NEXT TIME, TAKE *ME* OUT TO CELEBRATE!
OH, I DOUBT THERE'LL BE A NEXT TIME...IT WAS DUMB LUCK, THAT'S ALL.

LUCK IS JUST ONE MORE ESSENTIAL WEAPON IN A SUCCESSFUL REPORTER'S ARSENAL!
WHAT YOU *SHOULD* BE HAPPIEST ABOUT IS SEIZING THE *OPPORTUNITY!*
....
WHAT IS THIS...?
SOMETHING'S ON THE EDGE OF MY MIND...AND IT ISN'T GOOD.
OH, THIS IS OUR LAST ONE...YOU CAN HAVE IT FREE OF CHARGE!
FRIED BEAN CURD
AND HERE'S YOUR FREE GIFT, IN HONOR OF OUR GRAND OPENING! A SET OF AN ORIGINAL CHOPSTICK RESTS. ENJOY...!
魚正
BUT YOU'RE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LADY...I'LL GIVE IT TO *YOU* FOR *HALF PRICE!*
フゥ...


YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN TODAY?
WELL... NOT REALLY.
I MEAN...WHILE I WAS BUYING SHAMPOO AT THE DRUG STORE, I SOMEHOW GOT RUNG UP FOR TWO FREE SATO-CHAN DOLLS...
...THEN I TURNED IN THIS WALLET I FOUND, AND AS A REWARD THEY GAVE ME 100,000 YEN. AND LATER, AS I WAS WALKING DOWN THE STREET, I RAN INTO BRAD PITT, WHO WAS APPARENTLY VISITING JAPAN INCOGNITO, AND HE ASKED ME FOR DIRECTIONS...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE *OPPOSITE* OF A BAD DAY TO ME...!
SO...I GUESS THE REASON YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY IS...
...WE'VE BOTH BEEN BUSY LATELY AND HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER ALONE.
AM I RIGHT?
AH, NO...
NOT HERE...!

I'M FREE NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT. CAN I SEE YOU THEN?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU.
STRANGE.
WORK IS GOING WELL. MY BOYFRIEND IS SWEET TO ME.
GOD IS PRACTICALLY SHOWERING ME IN BLESSINGS.
SO...
...WHY DO I FEEL SO DEPRESSED?
ガチャッ
おすわりっ


I...I'M HOME.
IS THIS YOUR NEW WAY OF WELCOMING ME?


MOMO... HE...
...HASN'T SPOKEN TO ME IN MORE THAN 2 WEEKS!!
WAIT A SECOND. WHEN EXACTLY WAS IT...SINCE THAT MORNING ON VALENTINE'S DAY? DOES THAT MEAN...IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS?!
I TOTALLY DIDN'T NOTICE...
Badum
Badum
Badum
I WAS TOO BUSY AND DIDN'T STAY HOME MUCH...AND BESIDES, HE'S BEEN ACTING THE SAME AS USUAL OTHERWISE...
ALL EXCUSES
MO... MOMO...
ARE YOU... MAD AT ME...?

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO QUIET? SAY SOMETHING!
ARE YOU STILL PISSED OFF ABOUT THE CHOCOLATE THING? IS THAT IT?!
ゆっさ
ゆっさ
HER SPECIAL VERMICELLI WITH SAUSAGE SHAPED AS OCTOPUS.
MOMO...
...ARE YOU HUNGRY?

コク
コク
コク
OKAY...THEN SAY, "PLEASE GIVE ME SOME FOOD."
OR I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY.
I DON'T CARE. MAKE THAT FACE ALL DAY, IF YOU WANT.
MMM...IT SURE IS DELICIOUS!
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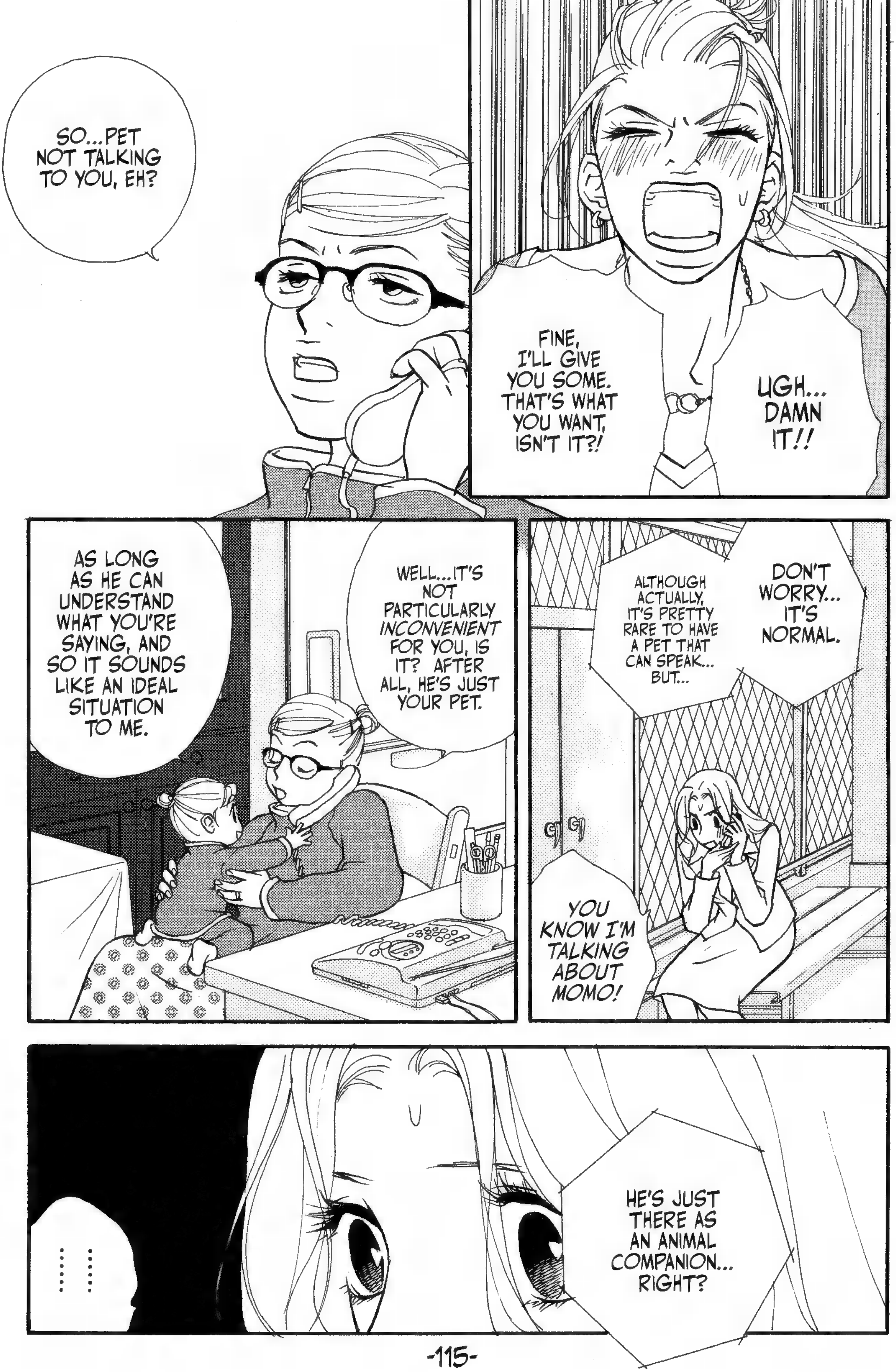
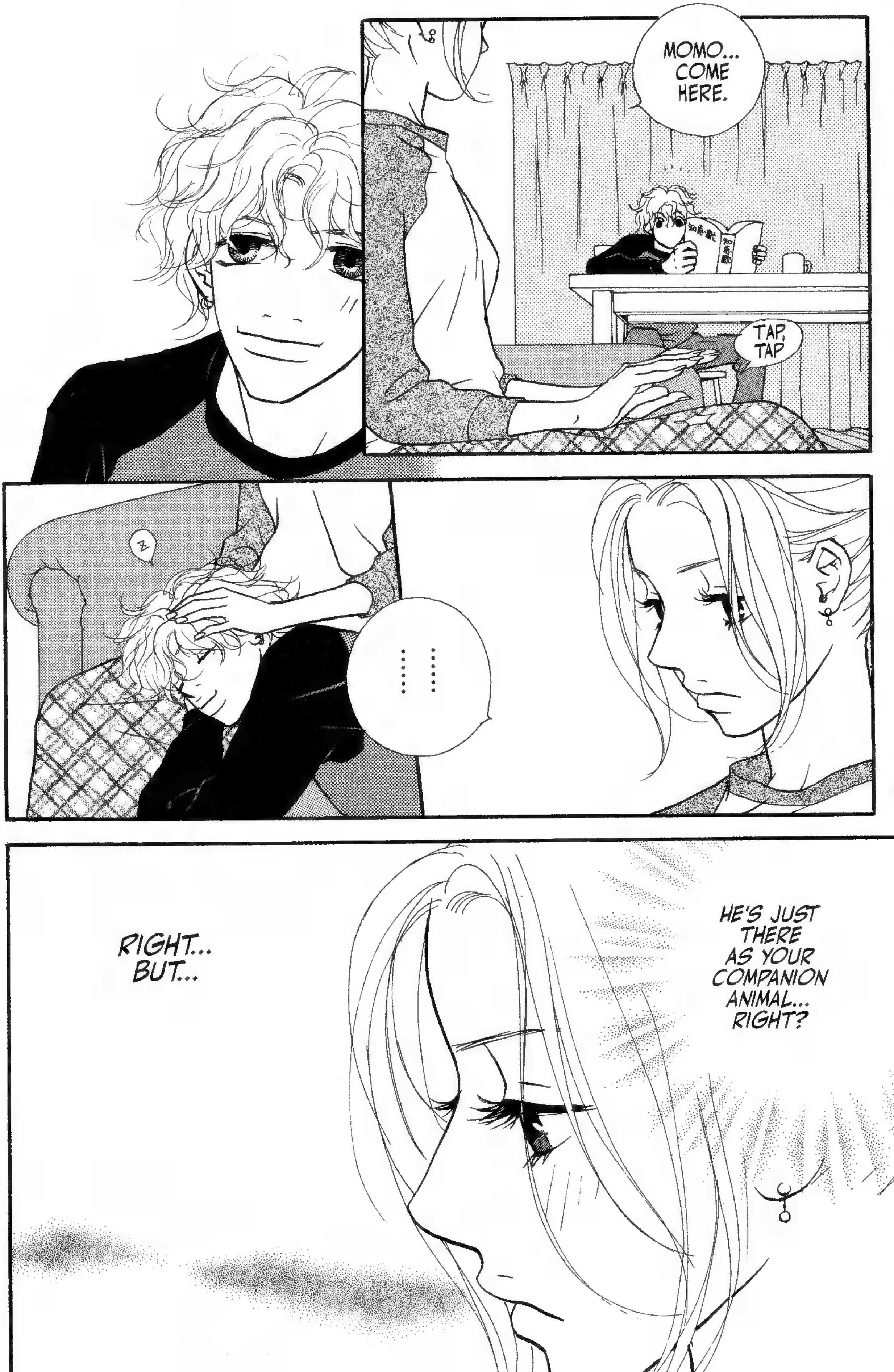
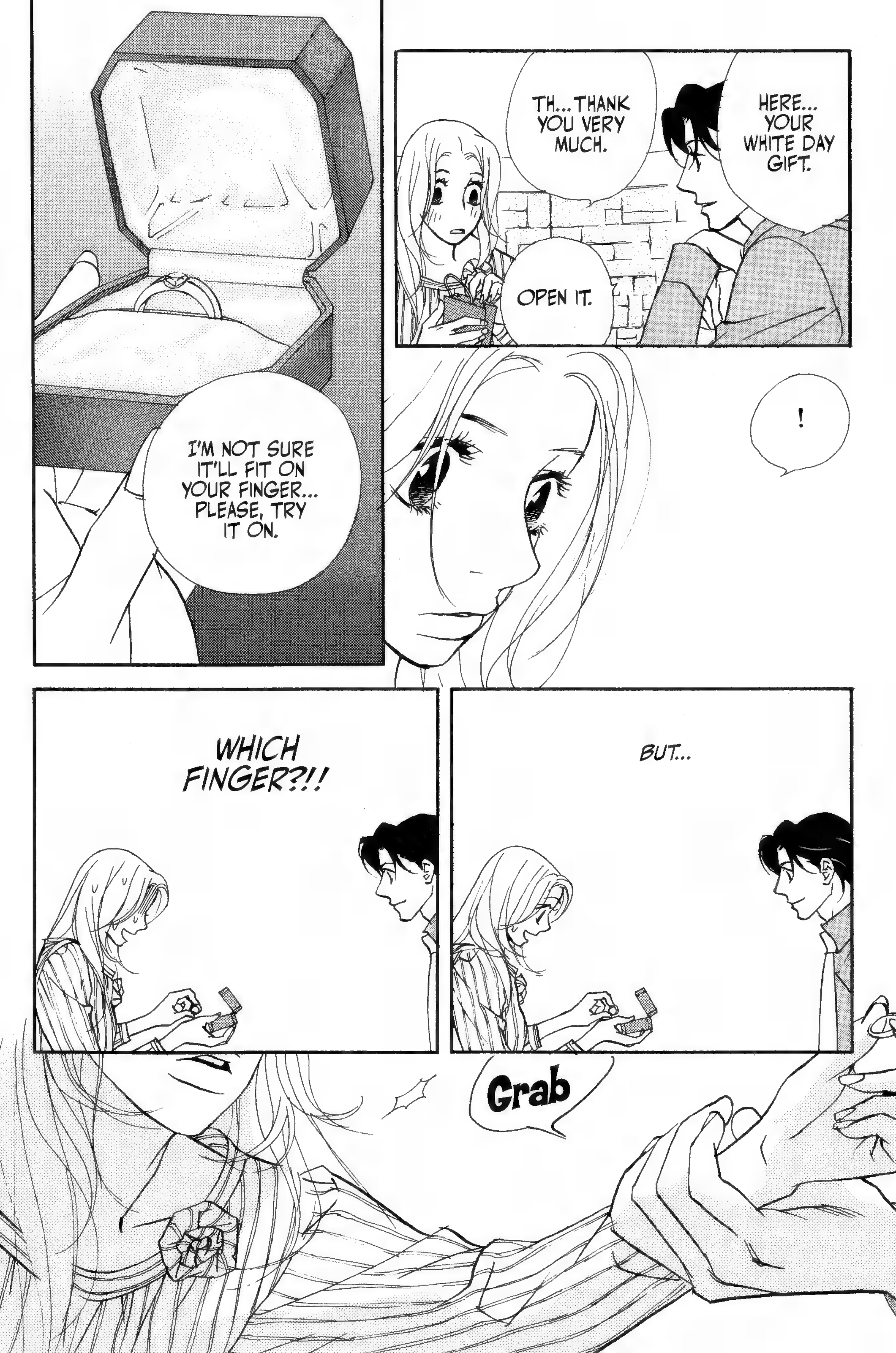
じ~~~~


UGH... DAMN IT!!
FINE, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME. THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, ISN'T IT?!
SO...PET NOT TALKING TO YOU, EH?
DON'T WORRY... IT'S NORMAL.
ALTHOUGH ACTUALLY, IT'S PRETTY RARE TO HAVE A PET THAT CAN SPEAK... BUT...
YOU KNOW I'M TALKING ABOUT MOMO!
WELL...IT'S NOT PARTICULARLY *INCONVENIENT* FOR YOU, IS IT? AFTER ALL, HE'S JUST YOUR PET.
AS LONG AS HE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, AND SO IT SOUNDS LIKE AN IDEAL SITUATION TO ME.
HE'S JUST THERE AS AN ANIMAL COMPANION... RIGHT?
......


MOMO... COME HERE.
TAP, TAP
......
HE'S JUST THERE AS YOUR COMPANION ANIMAL... RIGHT?
RIGHT... BUT...

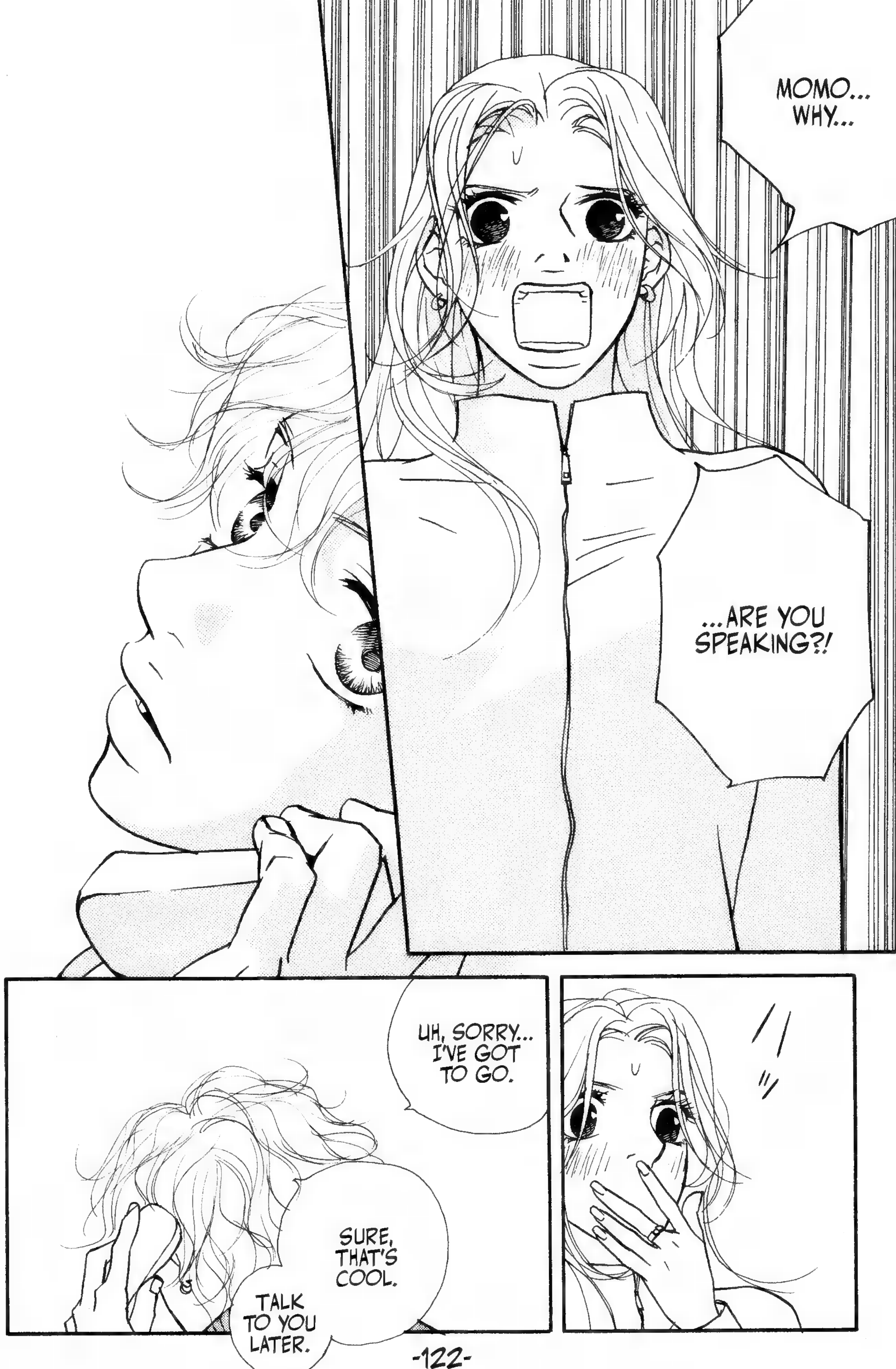
Très Bon
WHAT IF HE'S NOT JUST BOYCOTTING TALKING TO ME? WHAT IF HE'S SICK?
EVEN IF HE WAS, HE WOULD NEVER GO TO A HOSPITAL...
MAY WE PLEASE SEE YOUR DESSERT SELECTION?
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
YOU'RE ZONING OUT AGAIN.
AH... I'M SO SORRY.
HA HA... IT'S FINE.
I'M KIND OF USED TO IT NOW...
I KNOW--I'M SO SORRY.


HERE... YOUR WHITE DAY GIFT.
TH...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OPEN IT.
!
I'M NOT SURE IT'LL FIT ON YOUR FINGER... PLEASE, TRY IT ON.
WHICH FINGER?!!
BUT...
Grab

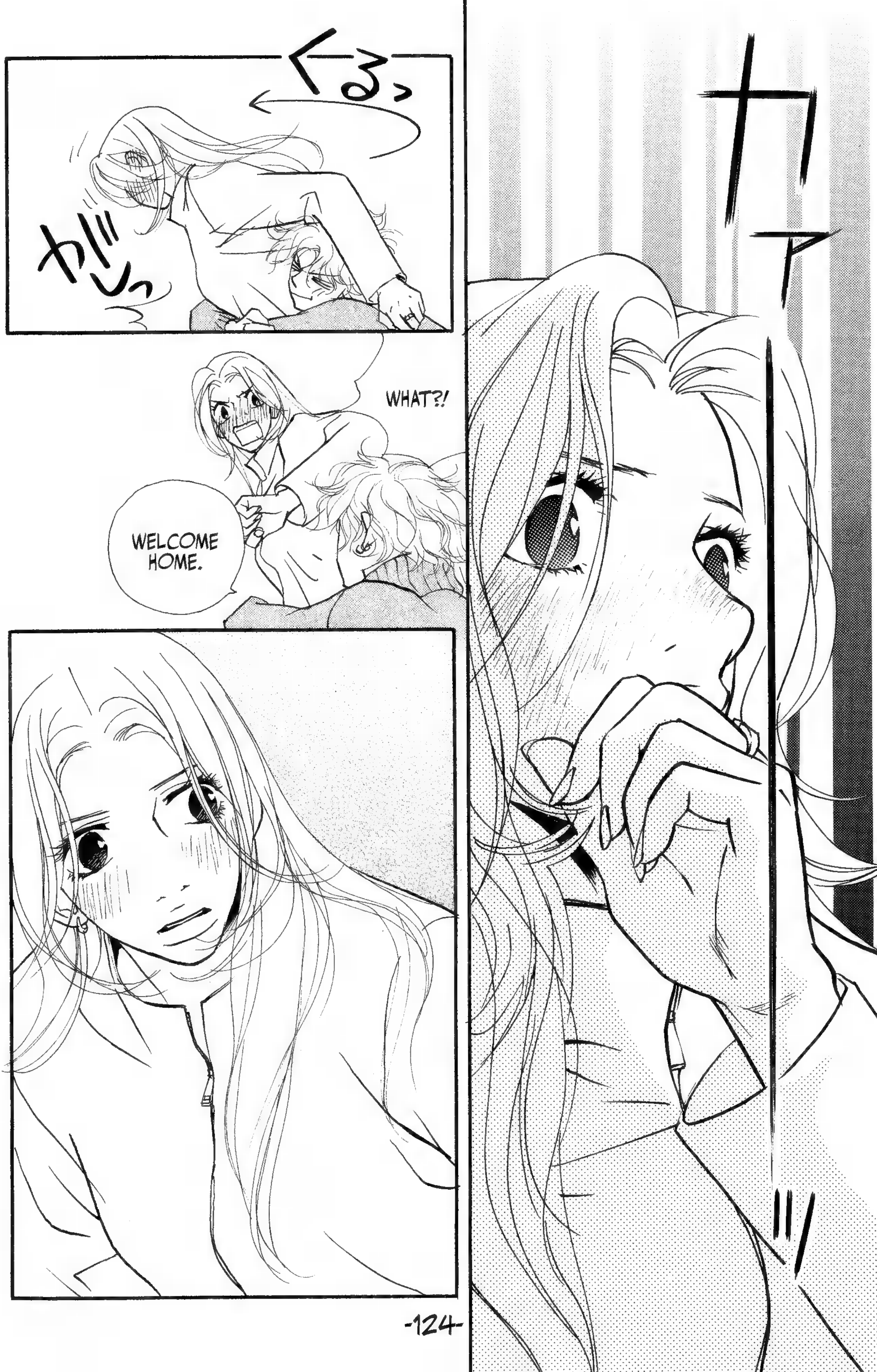
HUH...?
IT'S TOTALLY LOOSE.
YOUR FINGERS ARE THINNER THAN I THOUGHT.
WELL, THE PEOPLE IN THE STORE SAID THEY COULD FIX UP TO SIZE 6.
SO NEXT TIME WHEN WE GET TOGETHER ON A WEEKEND, WE CAN JUST GO THERE AND HAVE THEM FIX IT FOR YOU.
ON HER MIDDLE FINGER, JUST TO BE SAFE.
IS THIS...
...JUST A PROMISE RING?
OR...
ON WHITE DAY HE GAVE ME A RING FROM CARTIER WE'RE MUCH CLOSER NOW
...THIS IS NO TIME TO THINK UP A HAIKU!

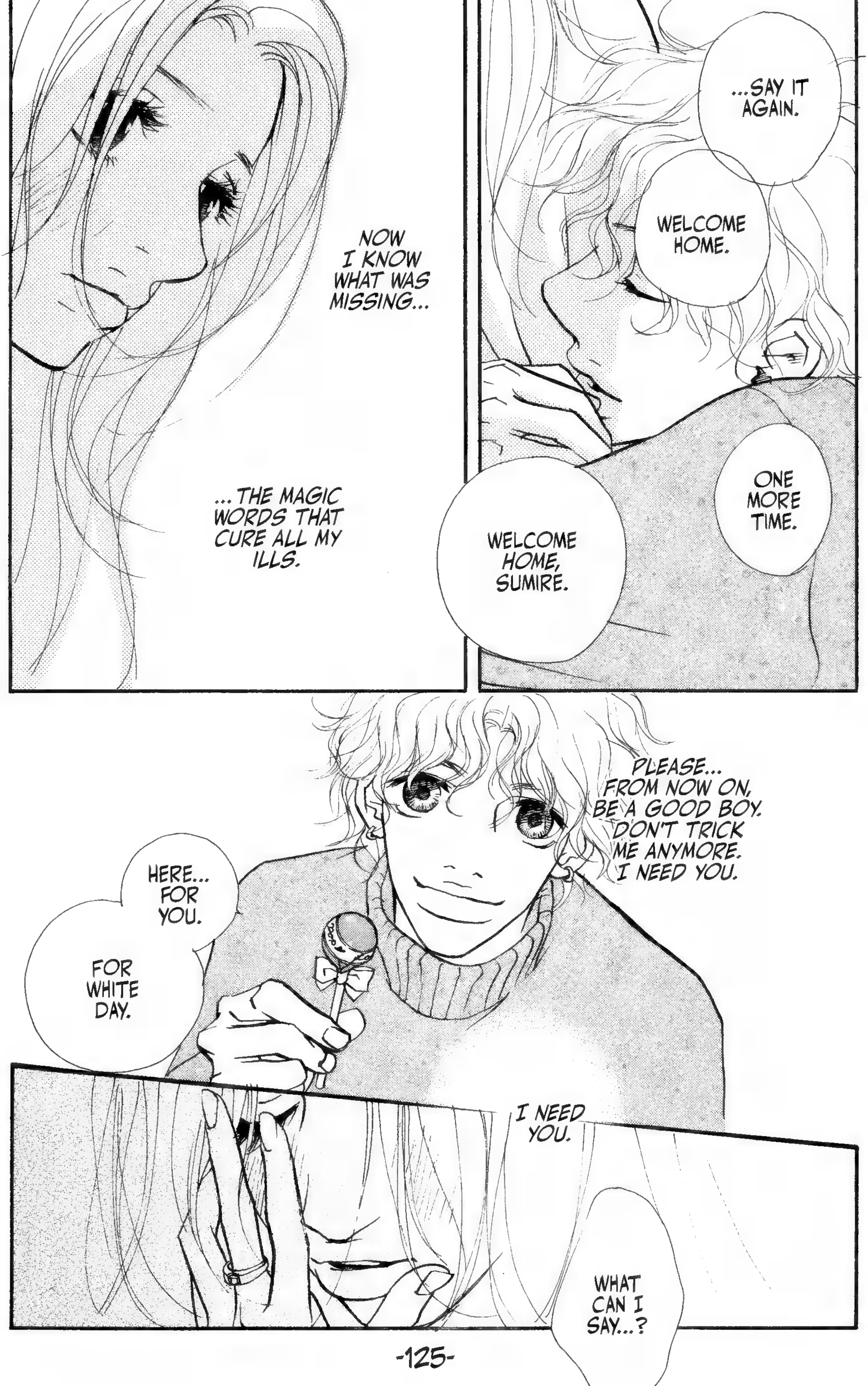
I'M HOME...
EH, REALLY? I DON'T KNOW.
NO--'CAUSE I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

I MEAN, AFTER ALL...
WELL, YOU'D HAVE TO ASK HER DIRECTLY.
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
UH-HUH.
YES... THAT'S RIGHT.


MOMO... WHY...
...ARE YOU SPEAKING?!
UH, SORRY... I'VE GOT TO GO.
SURE, THAT'S COOL.
TALK TO YOU LATER.

OF COURSE I CAN SPEAK.
WHAT'D YOU *THINK* I WAS, A *DOG*?

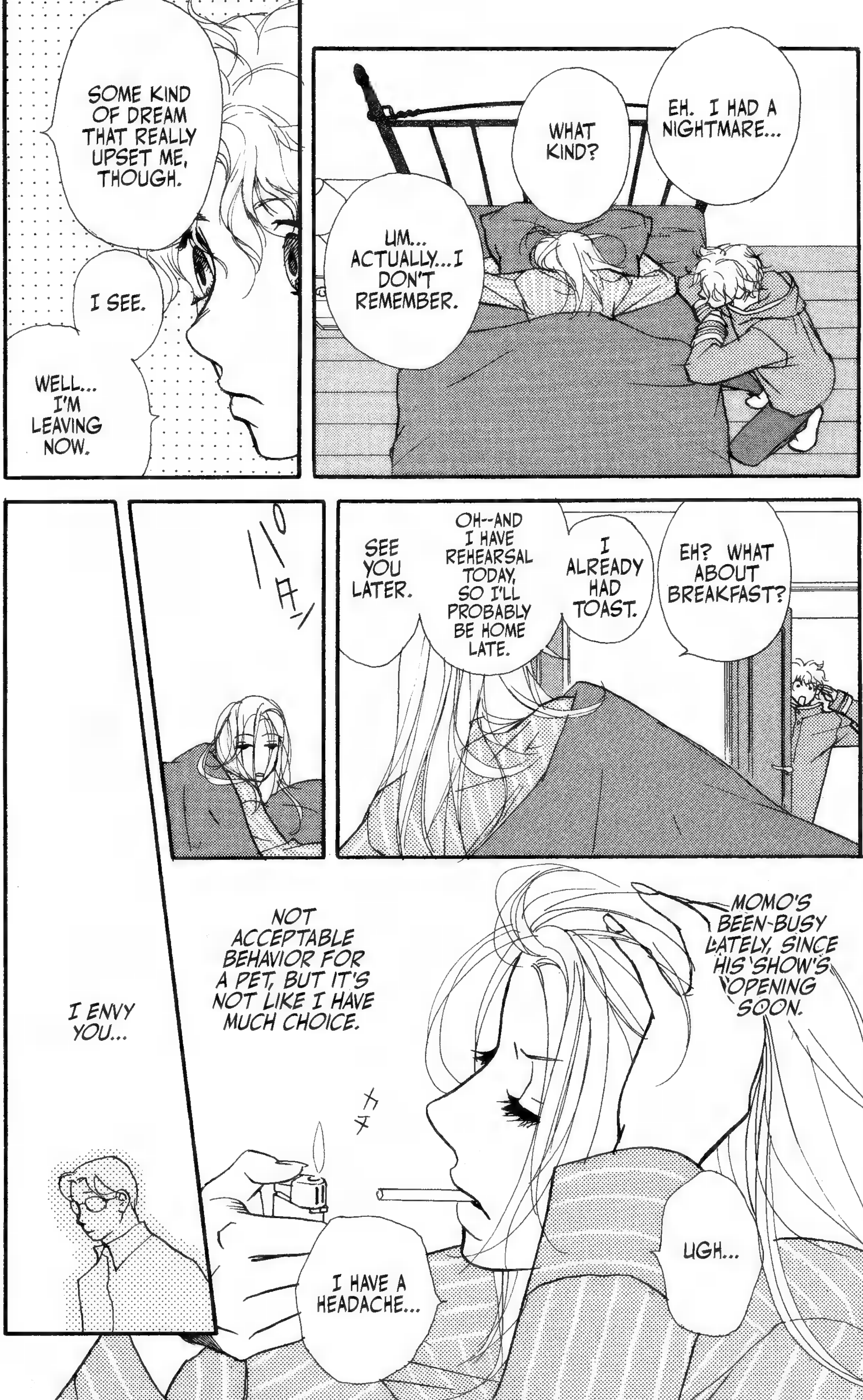

くるっ
WHAT?!
WELCOME HOME.


...SAY IT AGAIN.
WELCOME HOME.
ONE MORE TIME.
WELCOME HOME, SUMIRE.
NOW I KNOW WHAT WAS MISSING...
...THE MAGIC WORDS THAT CURE ALL MY ILLS.
PLEASE... FROM NOW ON, BE A GOOD BOY. DON'T TRICK ME ANYMORE. I NEED YOU.
HERE... FOR YOU.
FOR WHITE DAY.
I NEED YOU.
WHAT CAN I SAY...?

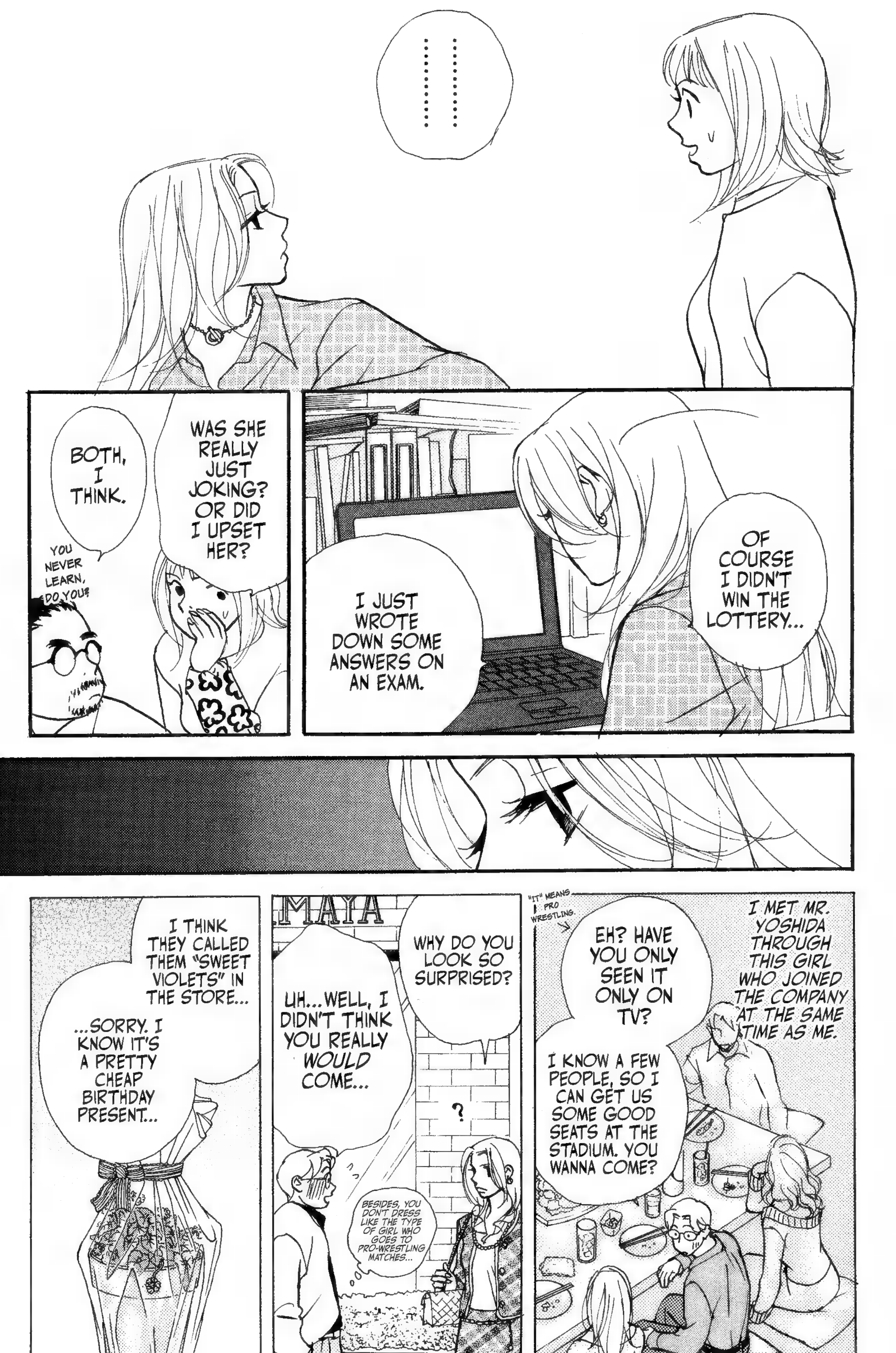
SOMEHOW, THIS IS BETTER THAN A CARTIER RING...
SEE? YOU SEE HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS...
...TO MAKE A SELFISH MISTRESS LIKE HER REALIZE MY VALUE... BIT BY BIT?
EH-- WHAT?
CARTIER?
OH, NOTHING.
I'M JUST... HAPPY.
SO, REMEMBER, ONCE IN A WHILE...
...I MAY PULL ANOTHER GENTLE TRICK ON YOU.
PREFERS WINE TO CANDY
YUCK!

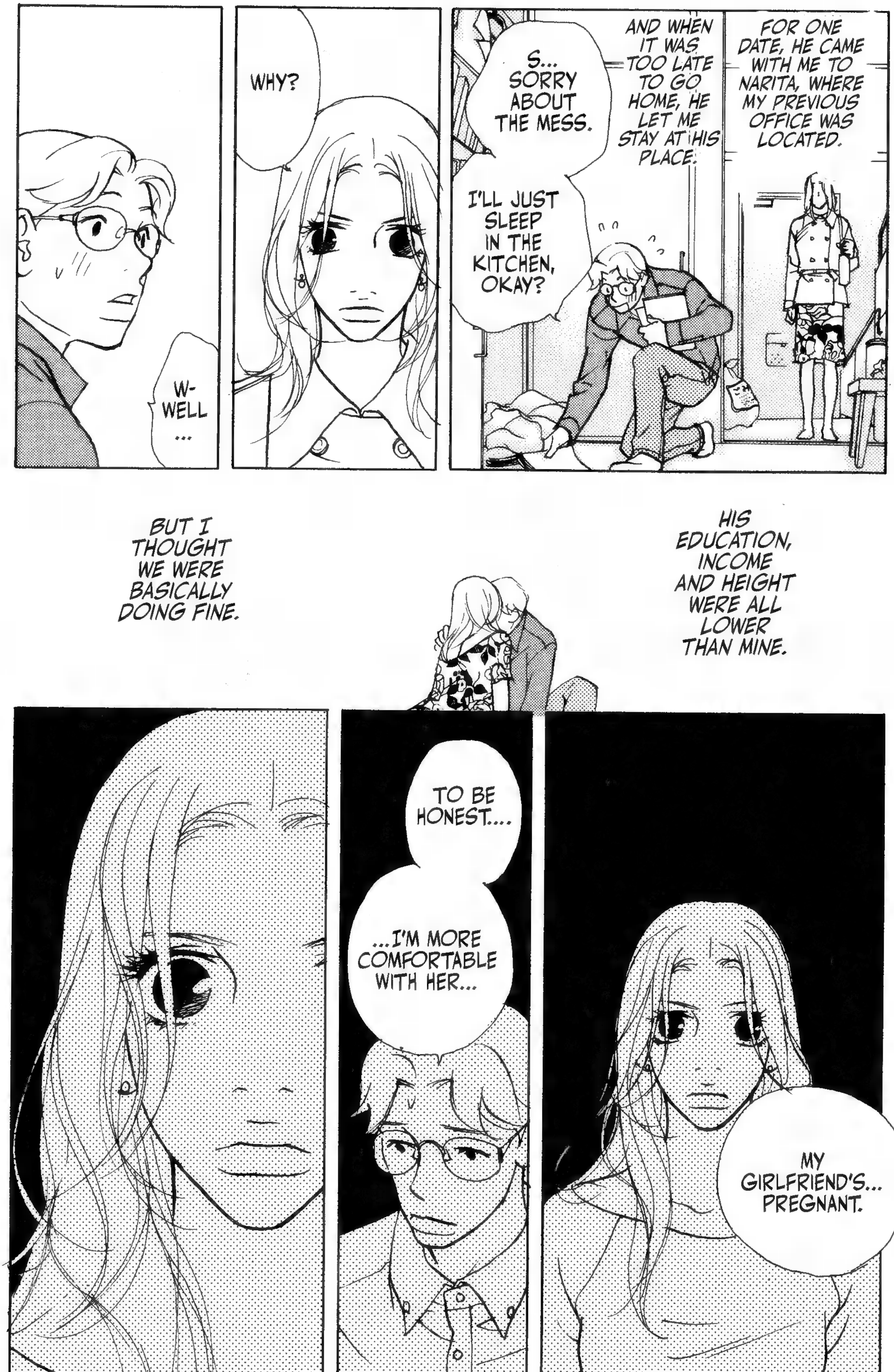
RULE 9:
TOGETHER FOREVER

I ENVY YOU.
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL AND SMART...
...THERE'S PROBABLY NOTHING IN THE WORLD THAT INTIMIDATES YOU.
SUMIRE?
YOUR BROW...IT'S DOING THAT FURROWY THING AGAIN.
ARE YOU OKAY?


EH. I HAD A NIGHTMARE...
WHAT KIND?
UM... ACTUALLY...I DON'T REMEMBER.
SOME KIND OF DREAM THAT REALLY UPSET ME, THOUGH.
I SEE.
WELL... I'M LEAVING NOW.
EH? WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST?
I ALREADY HAD TOAST.
OH--AND I HAVE REHEARSAL TODAY, SO I'LL PROBABLY BE HOME LATE.
SEE YOU LATER.
MOMO'S BEEN BUSY LATELY, SINCE HIS SHOW'S OPENING SOON.
UGH...
I HAVE A HEADACHE...
NOT ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FOR A PET, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE MUCH CHOICE.
I ENVY YOU...

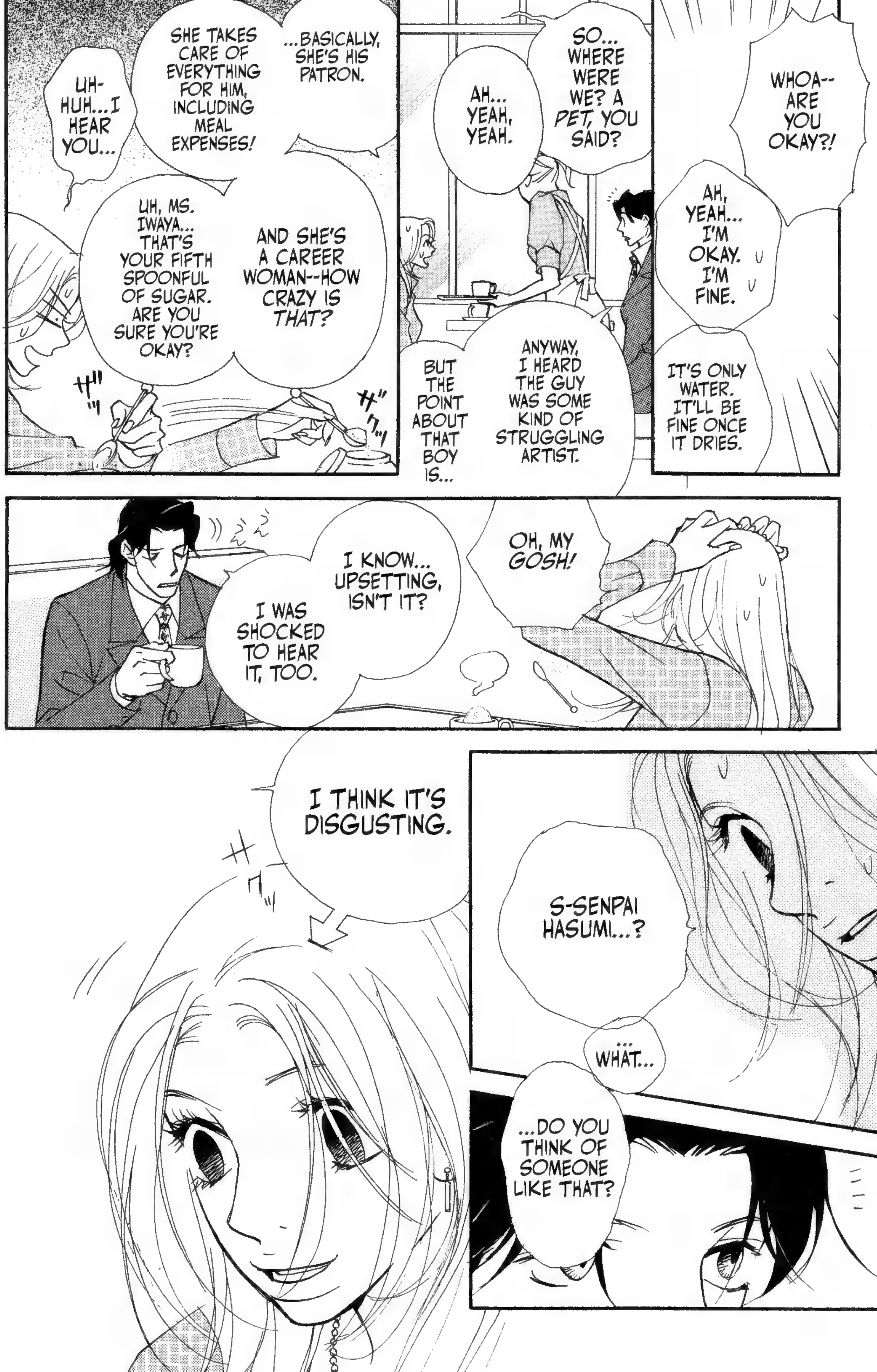
DAMN IT...
...IT WAS *HIM*...
I ENVY YOU, MS. IWAYA...!
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL AND SMART...
YOU DON'T HAVE *ANYTHING* TO WORRY ABOUT, DO YOU?
TAP TAP TAP
I HAVE NO *IDEA* WHAT TOKYO UNIVERSITY AND HARVARD MUST BE LIKE.
I MEAN...HOW DID YOU GET *INTO* THOSE SCHOOLS, ANYWAY?
I WON.
EH?
I WON THE LOTTERY, OF COURSE.

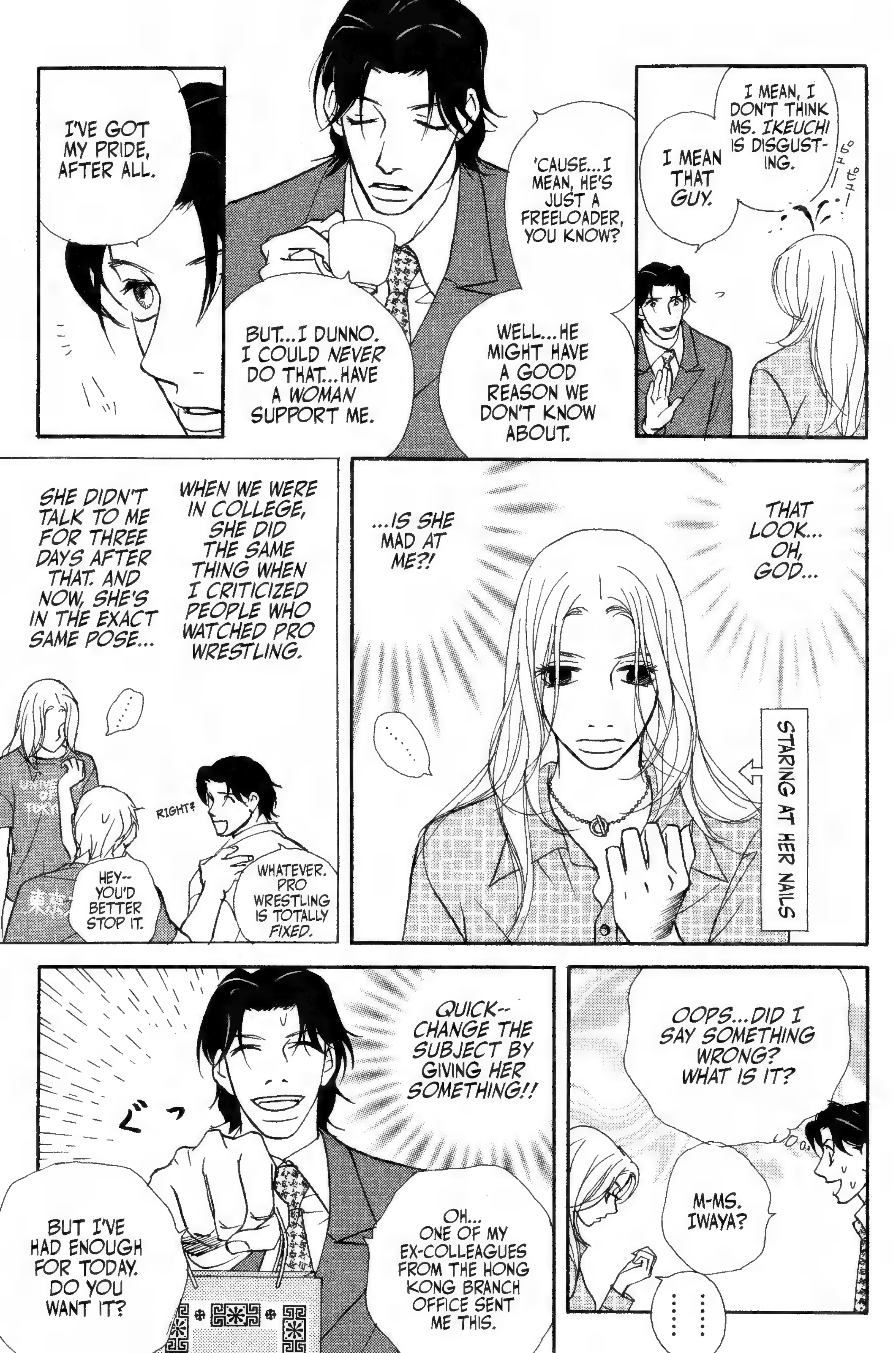

OF COURSE I DIDN'T WIN THE LOTTERY...
I JUST WROTE DOWN SOME ANSWERS ON AN EXAM.
WAS SHE REALLY JUST JOKING? OR DID I UPSET HER?
BOTH, I THINK.
YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU?
I MET MR. YOSHIDA THROUGH THIS GIRL WHO JOINED THE COMPANY AT THE SAME TIME AS ME.
EH? HAVE YOU ONLY SEEN IT ONLY ON TV?
"IT" MEANS PRO WRESTLING.
I KNOW A FEW PEOPLE, SO I CAN GET US SOME GOOD SEATS AT THE STADIUM. YOU WANNA COME?
MAYA
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SURPRISED?
UH...WELL, I DIDN'T THINK YOU REALLY *WOULD* COME...
?
BESIDES, YOU DON'T DRESS LIKE THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO GOES TO PRO-WRESTLING MATCHES...
I THINK THEY CALLED THEM "SWEET VIOLETS" IN THE STORE...
...SORRY. I KNOW IT'S A PRETTY CHEAP BIRTHDAY PRESENT...



FOR ONE DATE, HE CAME WITH ME TO NARITA, WHERE MY PREVIOUS OFFICE WAS LOCATED.
AND WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE TO GO HOME, HE LET ME STAY AT HIS PLACE.
S... SORRY ABOUT THE MESS.
I'LL JUST SLEEP IN THE KITCHEN, OKAY?
WHY?
W-WELL...
HIS EDUCATION, INCOME AND HEIGHT WERE ALL LOWER THAN MINE.
BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE BASICALLY DOING FINE.
MY GIRLFRIEND'S... PREGNANT.
TO BE HONEST....
...I'M MORE COMFORTABLE WITH HER...

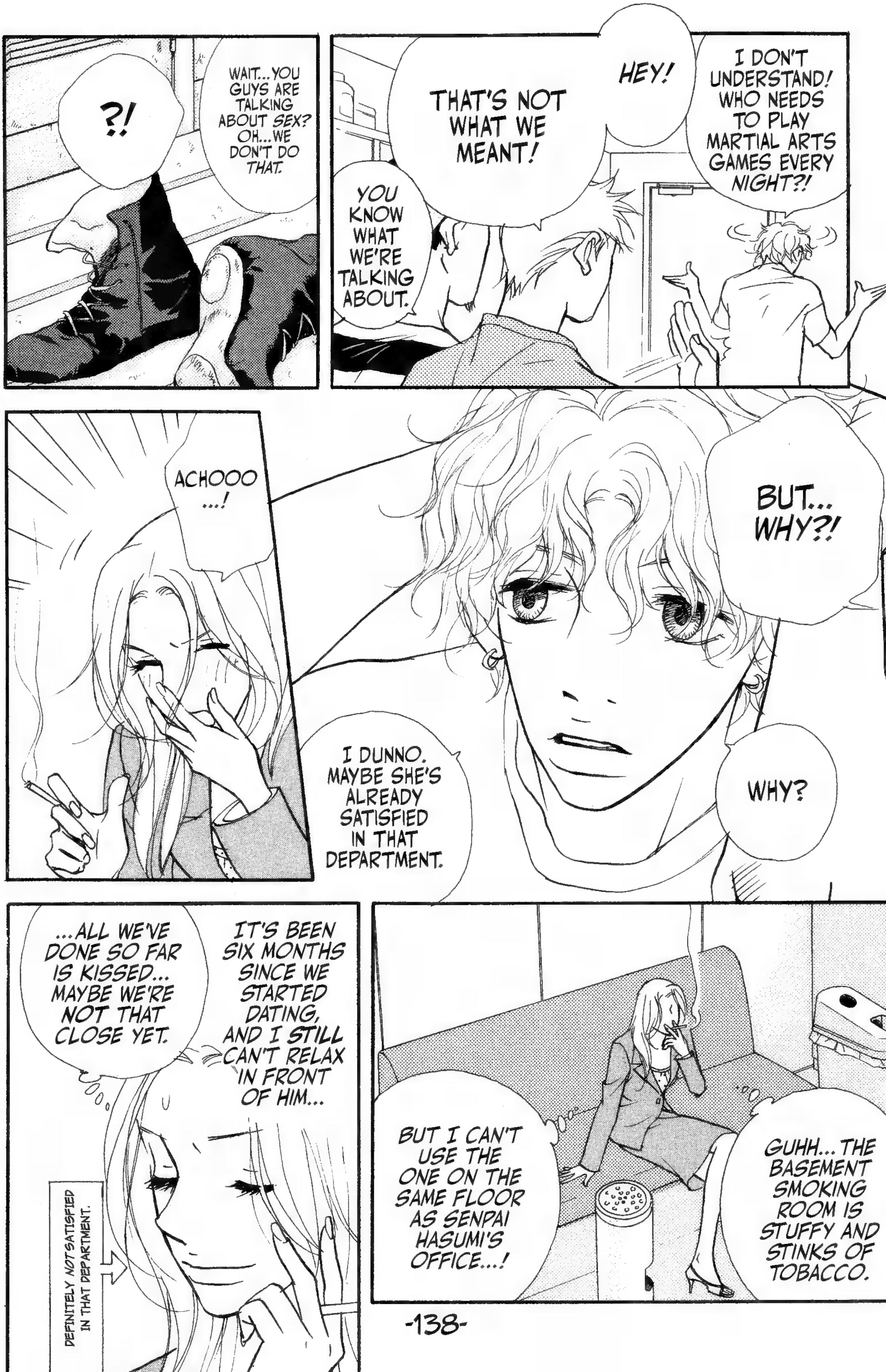
I'LL NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.
AFTER THAT, I MADE UP MY MIND TO GO AFTER A GUY WHO WOULD NEVER FEEL INFERIOR TO ME AS A BOYFRIEND.
YOU KNOW... LIKE HIM.
OH--I WENT OUT FOR DRINKS WITH YAMAKAWA AND SOME FRIENDS THE OTHER DAY.
YOU REMEMBER YAMAKAWA, RIGHT? HE WENT TO THE SAME COLLEGE AS WE DID.
OH, YES...OF COURSE.
Benny's
AND REMEMBER MS. IKEUCHI? SHE WAS PROBABLY IN THE CLASS JUST AHEAD OF YOURS.
SURE.
SHE'S WORKING FOR YOMEURI NEWSPAPER NOW, ISN'T SHE? THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT'S HER.
SHE USED TO BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER EMPLOYEE.
BUT I HEARD THEY GOT DIVORCED...
...AND NOW THEY SAY SHE'S LIVING WITH A YOUNGER MAN.
I SEE...
BUT GET THIS...SHE'S TELLING EVERYONE SHE HAS A PET!
Crash


WHOA-- ARE YOU OKAY?!
AH, YEAH... I'M OKAY. I'M FINE.
IT'S ONLY WATER. IT'LL BE FINE ONCE IT DRIES.
SO... WHERE WERE WE? A PET, YOU SAID?
AH... YEAH, YEAH.
ANYWAY, I HEARD THE GUY WAS SOME KIND OF STRUGGLING ARTIST.
BUT THE POINT ABOUT THAT BOY IS...
...BASICALLY, SHE'S HIS PATRON.
SHE TAKES CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR HIM, INCLUDING MEAL EXPENSES!
UH-HUH...I HEAR YOU...
AND SHE'S A CAREER WOMAN--HOW CRAZY IS THAT?
UH, MS. IWAYA... THAT'S YOUR FIFTH SPOONFUL OF SUGAR. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
OH, MY GOSH!
I KNOW... UPSETTING, ISN'T IT?
I WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR IT, TOO.
S-SENPAI HASUMI...?
...WHAT...
...DO YOU THINK OF SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
I THINK IT'S DISGUSTING.

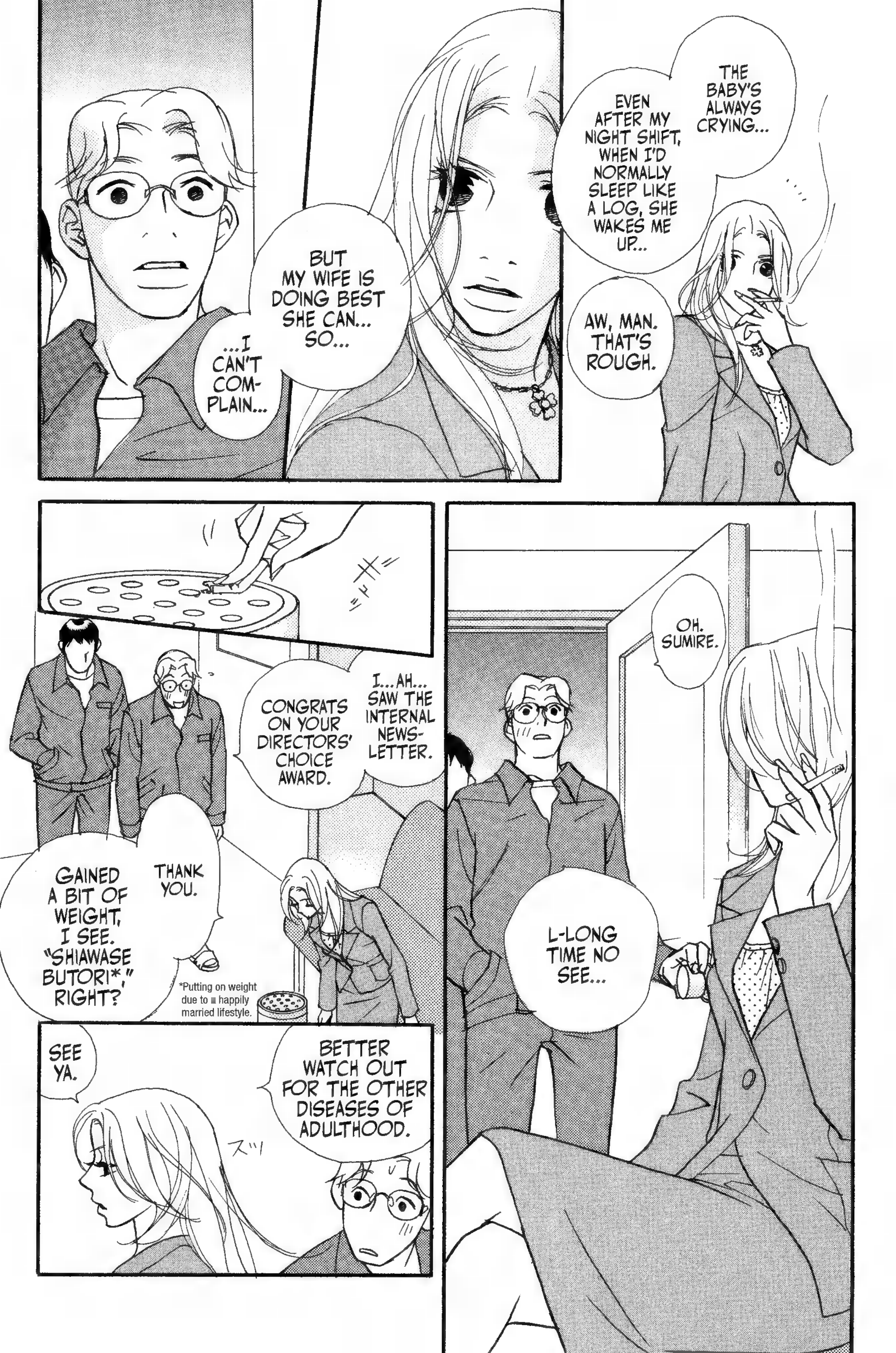

I MEAN, I DON'T THINK MS. IKEUCHI IS DISGUSTING.
I MEAN THAT GUY.
'CAUSE...I MEAN, HE'S JUST A FREELOADER, YOU KNOW?
WELL...HE MIGHT HAVE A GOOD REASON WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
BUT...I DUNNO. I COULD NEVER DO THAT...HAVE A WOMAN SUPPORT ME.
I'VE GOT MY PRIDE, AFTER ALL.
THAT LOOK... OH, GOD...
...IS SHE MAD AT ME?!
......
STARING AT HER NAILS
WHEN WE WERE IN COLLEGE, SHE DID THE SAME THING WHEN I CRITICIZED PEOPLE WHO WATCHED PRO WRESTLING.
SHE DIDN'T TALK TO ME FOR THREE DAYS AFTER THAT. AND NOW, SHE'S IN THE EXACT SAME POSE...
WHATEVER. PRO WRESTLING IS TOTALLY FIXED.
RIGHT?
HEY--YOU'D BETTER STOP IT.
......
OOPS...DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT IS IT?
M-MS. IWAYA?
......
QUICK--CHANGE THE SUBJECT BY GIVING HER SOMETHING!!
OH... ONE OF MY EX-COLLEAGUES FROM THE HONG KONG BRANCH OFFICE SENT ME THIS.
BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY. DO YOU WANT IT?

WHAT IS IT?
JASMINE TEA.
WHEN YOU POUR HOT WATER ON IT, IT OPENS UP JUST LIKE A FLOWER BLOOMING.
I SEE.
WOW...IT REALLY DOES!
COOL. IT'S KINDA SLOW, BUT...
...ALSO KINDA CUTE, Y'KNOW?
YEAH... IT IS.
SMELLS NICE, TOO...
WHAT ABOUT MOMO?
IF MOMO WERE MY BOYFRIEND, INSTEAD OF MY PET...I WONDER IF HIS ATTITUDE WOULD BE DIFFERENT.
WOULD HE ALWAYS BE WHINING, "I FEEL SO INFERIOR TO YOU" OR "I ENVY YOU, SUMIRE," LIKE ALL THE OTHERS?
WHAT IF HE WERE MY BOYFRIEND...
...WHAT?

NOTHING! WHY DO YOU ASK?!
WHAT? WHAT'D I DO?
WOW ...
SO IT'S TRUE... YOU ARE HER PET.
WHEN MR. SHIBUSAWA SAID THAT, I THOUGHT HE WAS TOTALLY KIDDING! BUT...
IS IT REALLY SO STRANGE?
AH...WELL, NOT STRANGE EXACTLY, BUT...
YUP. IT'S TOTALLY STRANGE.
SO...
IS IT HARD... GIVING HER PLEASURE ALL THE TIME?
HUH... PLEASURE?
YEAH. EXTREMELY HARD.
I MEAN, I'M BASICALLY A MORNING PERSON, RIGHT? BUT THIS WOMAN DEMANDS THAT I SATISFY HER EVERY NIGHT!
AND SHE GETS REALLY MAD IF I GET TIRED OR DON'T DO IT ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENOUGH.
ON THE OTHER HAND...WHEN SHE'S TIRED, SHE MAKES ME DO IT BY MYSELF WHILE SHE WATCHES...
... WHOA.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHO NEEDS TO PLAY MARTIAL ARTS GAMES EVERY NIGHT?!
HEY!
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEANT!
YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WAIT... YOU GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT SEX? OH... WE DON'T DO THAT.
?!
BUT... WHY?!
WHY?
I DUNNO. MAYBE SHE'S ALREADY SATISFIED IN THAT DEPARTMENT.
ACHOOO ...!
GUHH... THE BASEMENT SMOKING ROOM IS STUFFY AND STINKS OF TOBACCO.
BUT I CAN'T USE THE ONE ON THE SAME FLOOR AS SENPAI HASUMI'S OFFICE...!
IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE WE STARTED DATING, AND I STILL CAN'T RELAX IN FRONT OF HIM...
...ALL WE'VE DONE SO FAR IS KISSED... MAYBE WE'RE NOT THAT CLOSE YET.
DEFINITELY NOT SATISFIED IN THAT DEPARTMENT.


THE BABY'S ALWAYS CRYING...
EVEN AFTER MY NIGHT SHIFT, WHEN I'D NORMALLY SLEEP LIKE A LOG, SHE WAKES ME UP...
AW, MAN. THAT'S ROUGH.
BUT MY WIFE IS DOING BEST SHE CAN... SO...
...I CAN'T COMPLAIN...
OH. SUMIRE.
L-LONG TIME NO SEE...
I...AH... SAW THE INTERNAL NEWSLETTER.
CONGRATS ON YOUR DIRECTORS' CHOICE AWARD.
THANK YOU.
GAINED A BIT OF WEIGHT, I SEE. "SHIAWASE BUTORI*," RIGHT?
*Putting on weight due to a happily married lifestyle.
BETTER WATCH OUT FOR THE OTHER DISEASES OF ADULTHOOD.
SEE YA.
ズッ

HEY... THAT'S...
WAS THAT MS. BEAUTY QUEEN FROM THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT? THE ONE YOU USED TO DATE?
UH... YEAH. SHE'S IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LIFESTYLE INFORMATION NOW, THOUGH.
SHE'S CERTAINLY BEAUTIFUL... BUT SOMEHOW SCARY...
HOW DID YOU END UP WITH HER?
UMM...
DAMN IT.
FORGOT MY LIGHTER.
BASICALLY, I'VE THOUGHT SHE WAS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE SINCE I MET HER.
I CAN SEE THAT.
SO I WAS TOTALLY BLOWN AWAY WHEN I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ME.
ALTHOUGH... AFTER DATING HER A FEW YEARS...
...YOU GOT USED TO HER, RIGHT?
RIGHT... BUT THEN I GRADUALLY REALIZED... IT WAS GETTING HARD TO KEEP UP WITH HER... AS A MAN. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
IT WAS LIKE I'D SIGNED UP FOR A LOAN THAT WAS WAY BEYOND MY ABILITY TO REPAY...
AHA HA HA! INVEST WISELY, EH?
IS THAT WHAT I AM? SOME KIND OF LOAN?

BUT ACTUALLY ...
...SHE'S A VERY SWEET... SENSITIVE LADY.
I WAS THE WEAK ONE... THE ONE WHO COULDN'T GIVE HER THE KIND OF SUPPORT SHE WANTED.
I SEE. SO SINCE YOU'RE JUST A PET, YOU DON'T GET TO HAVE SEX WITH HER?
SOUNDS PRETTY EASY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
THEN SHE DOESN'T CARE IF YOU FLIRT WITH SOME OF THE LADY CATS OUTSIDE, EH?
ガチャッ
ビタッ
ダーン!

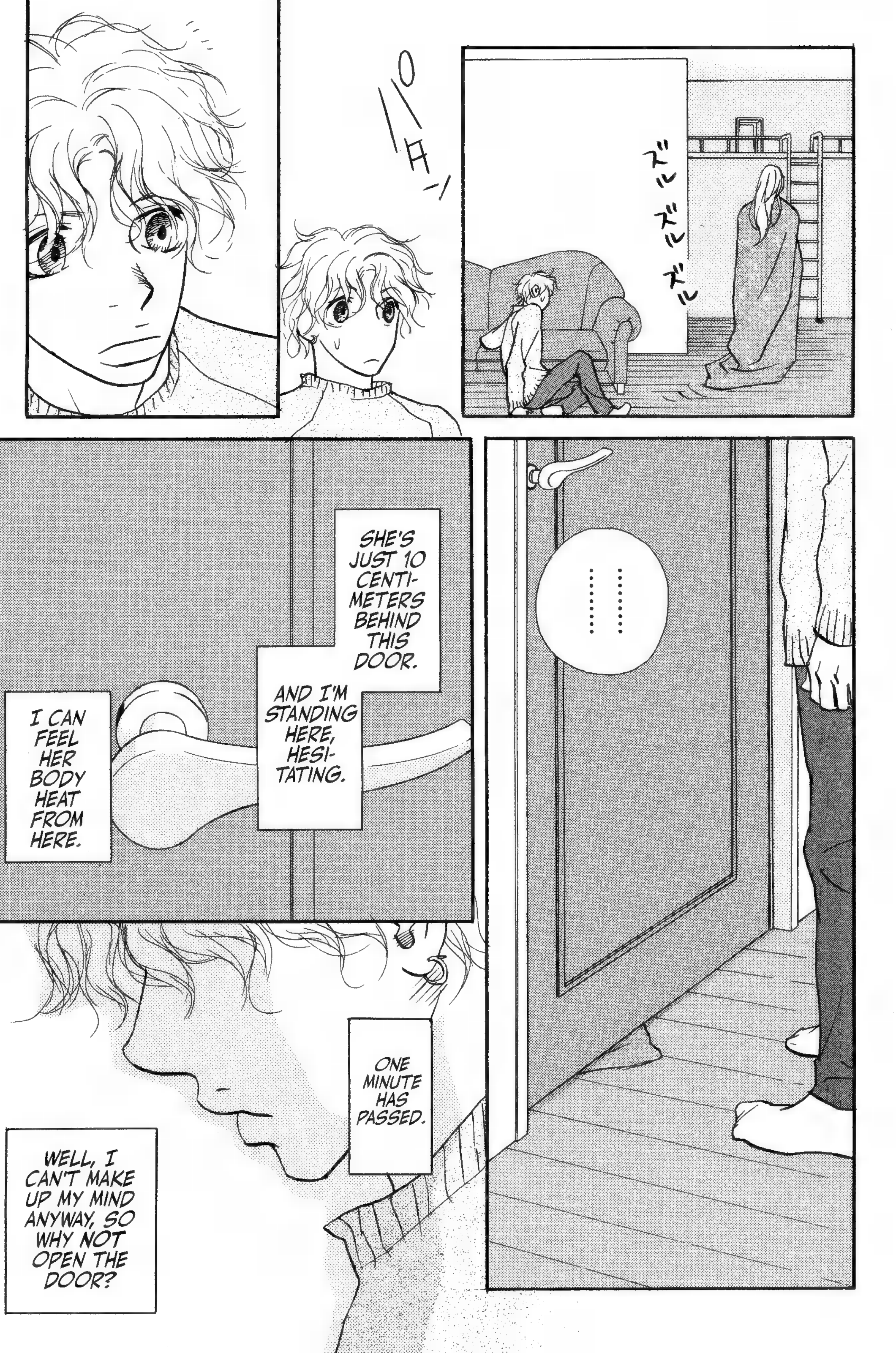
……
SUMIRE?!
ARE YOU DRUNK? OH--YOU'RE COMPLETELY WASTED!
……
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
BATH-ROOM?
OH, WAIT. YOUR SHOES...
ずるずる
ゲえぇ
……
FEELING BETTER? YOU'D BETTER GO TO BED.
I WANNA TAKE A BATH...
EH?!
A BATH?! I DON'T THINK SO, SUMIRE. YOU'RE STILL STUMBLING...
PLUS, YOU JUST PUKED...
わぁぁ
I SAID I WANTED--!!
I NEED TO CLEAN OFF!!
SCATTERED CLOTHES...

SHE'S ACTING LIKE A COMPLETE CHILD...
OH, THE EVIL POWERS OF ALCOHOL...
BAM
WHAT WAS THAT THUD...?
AND WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
...SUMIRE?
HOW MANY FINGERS AM I HOLDING UP?
TWO...
GOOD. YOU'RE FINE.
OOPS... LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A BUMP ON YOUR HEAD.
I...ACTUALLY... COULDN'T ALWAYS COOK.
HUH?
OH NO... IS HER BRAIN DAMAGED?

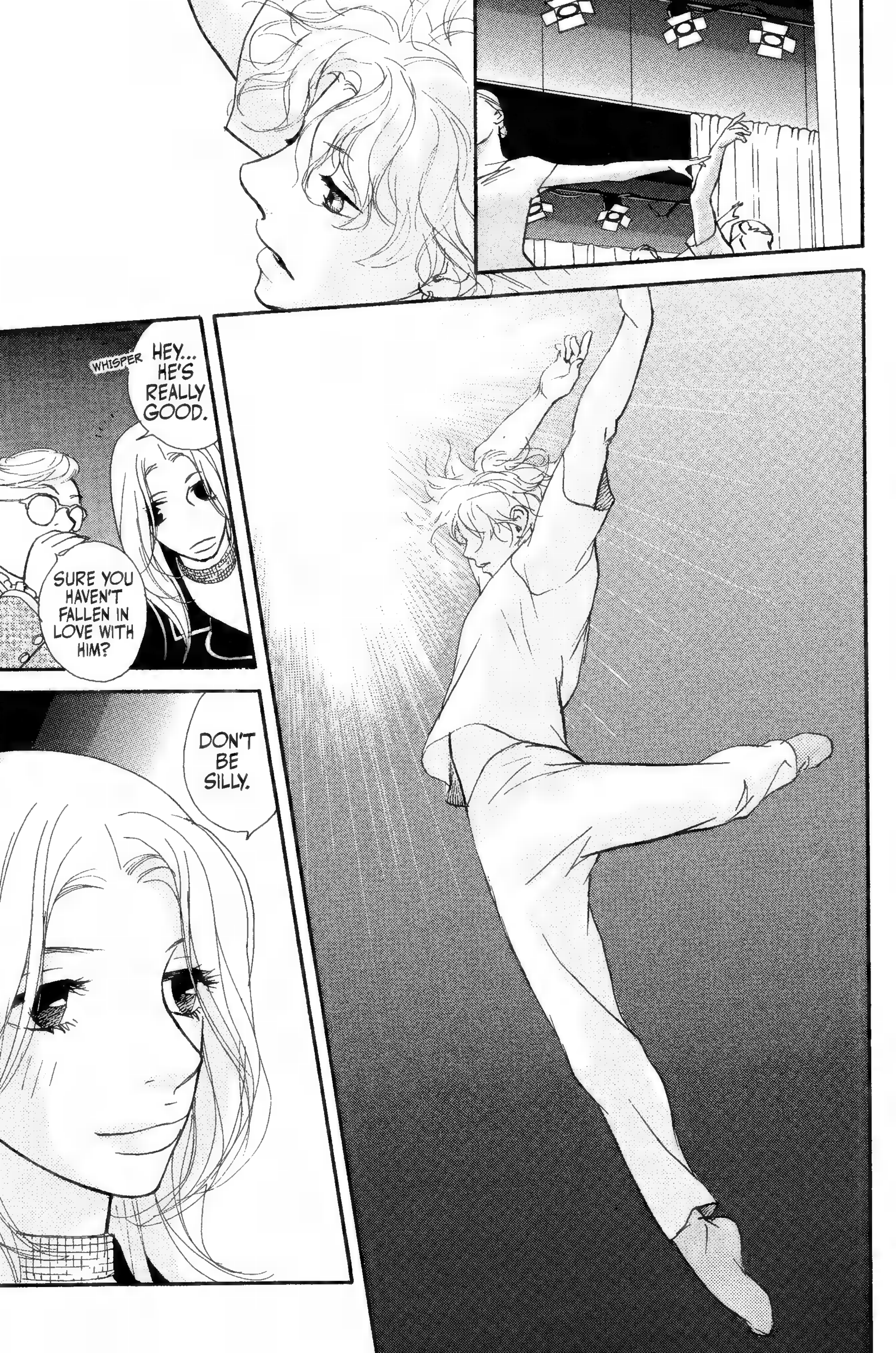
BUT...I DIDN'T WANNA BE ONE OF THOSE PROFESSIONAL WOMEN WHO REFUSE TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE.
SO I STUDIED IT DESPERATELY... HOW...TO COOK.
MOMO ...?
HUH?
YOU DON'T EVER HATE ANYONE...OUT OF JEALOUSY... DO YOU?
UM... WELL, SURE I DO.
WHEN I SEE SOMEONE TALL...OR SOMEONE WHO HAS SOME TALENT I DON'T HAVE.
BUT I KNOW EVEN TALENTED PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS AND TROUBLES OF THEIR OWN.
NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT... WHETHER I ENVY THEM OR NOT.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE ONLY REALLY COMPETING AGAINST YOURSELF... RIGHT?

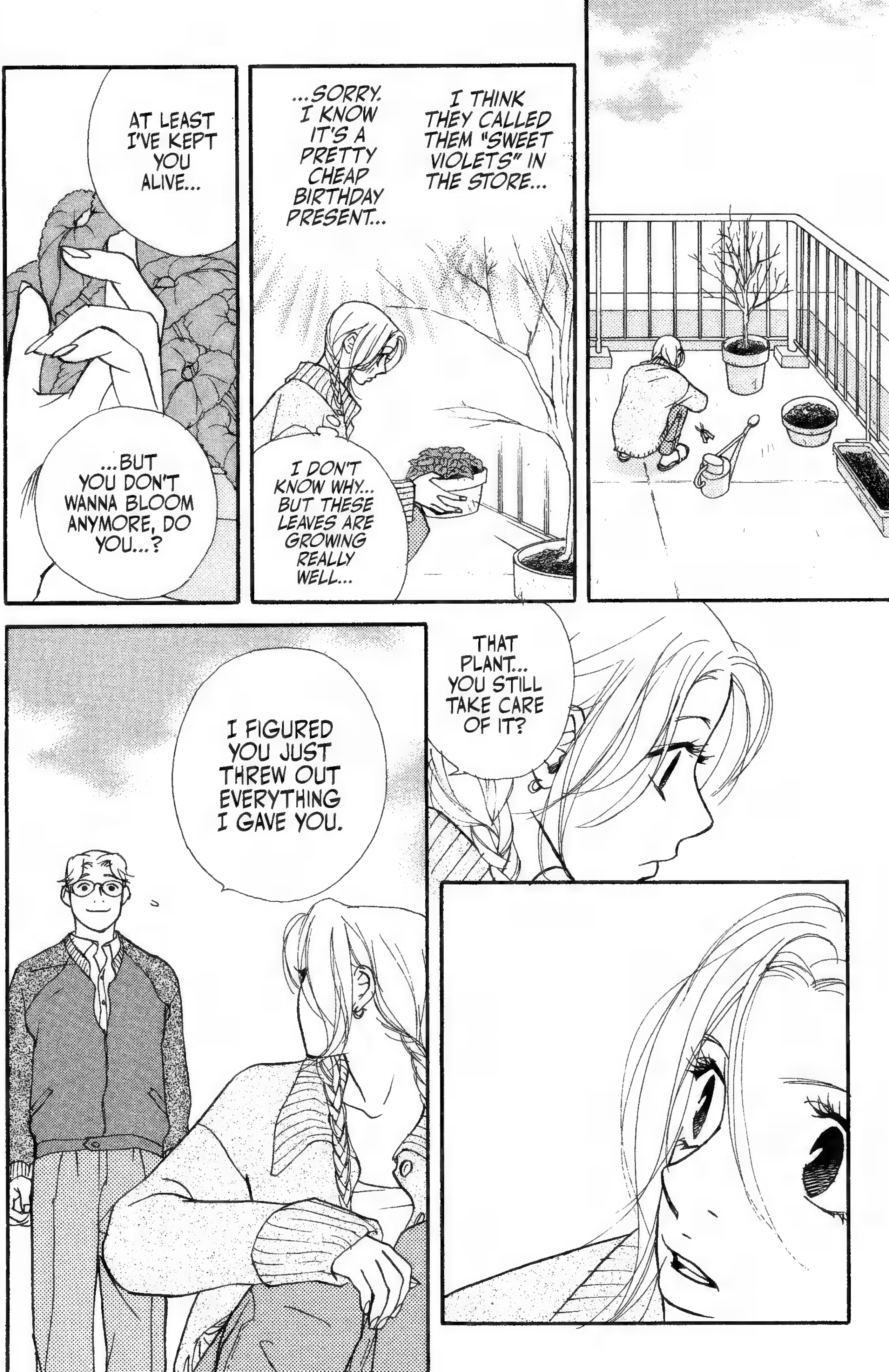
SUMRE... ARE YOU ASLEEP?
YOU'D BETTER GO TO BED, OR YOU'LL GET SICK...
WELL...I THINK...
...I'D RATHER... LIVE WITH MY PET FOREVER...
SHE DIDN'T ...
... RESIST ME AT ALL.

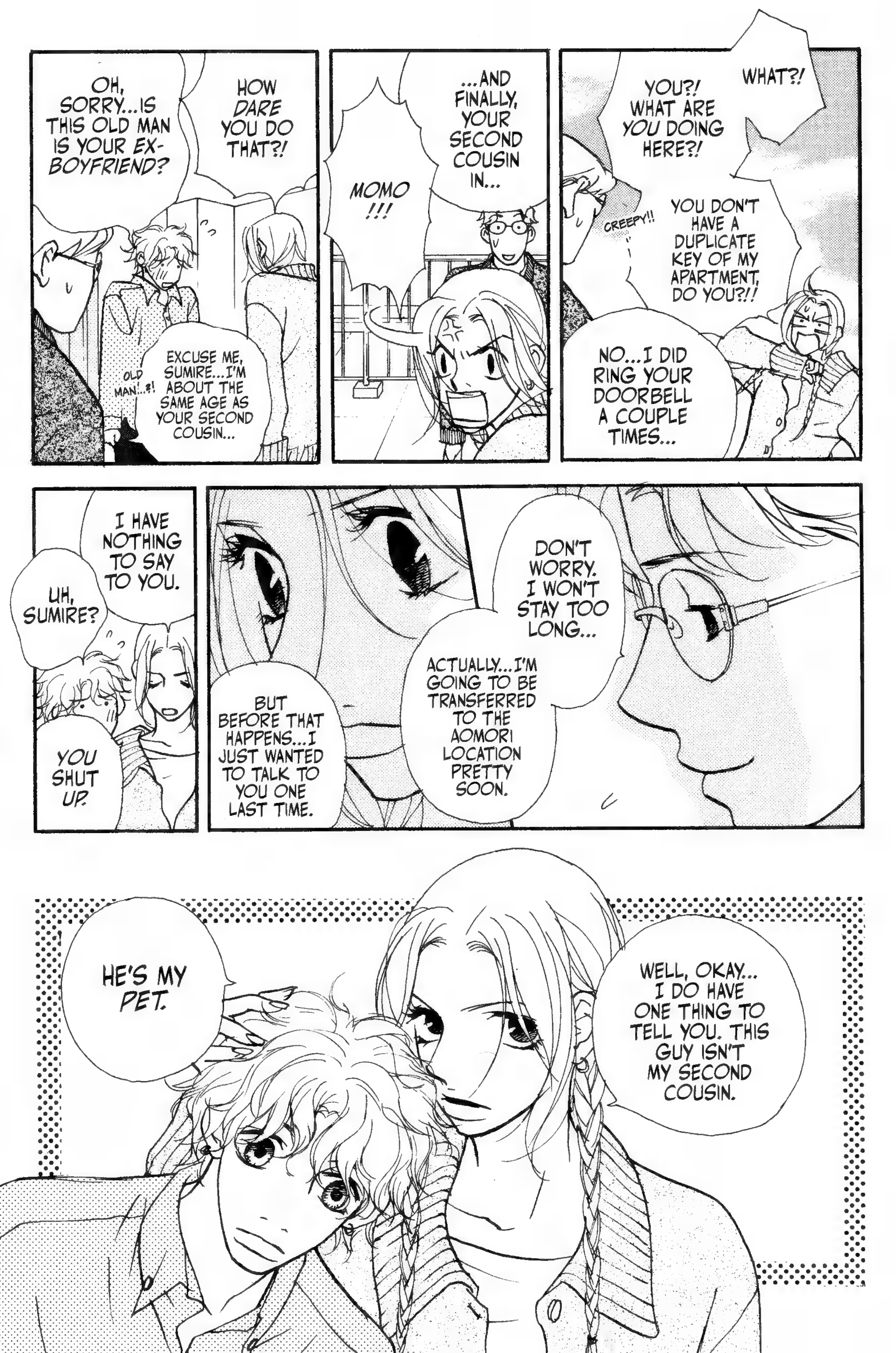
...SLOWLY UNFOLDING...
BIT BY BIT...
...AND THEN, FINALLY...IT OPENS.
OH.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
OUCH.
I HAVE TO GO TO BED NOW.


パタン
ズル ズル ズル
……
SHE'S JUST 10 CENTI-METERS BEHIND THIS DOOR.
AND I'M STANDING HERE, HESI-TATING.
I CAN FEEL HER BODY HEAT FROM HERE.
ONE MINUTE HAS PASSED.
WELL, I CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND ANYWAY, SO WHY NOT OPEN THE DOOR?

SOUNDS PRETTY EASY, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT.
TRUST ME...IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
ESPECIALLY TONIGHT.
IS SHINICHI-SAN TAKING CARE OF RAN-CHAN TODAY?
SURE. IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE A BREAK SOMETIMES.
OH--IT'S ABOUT TO START.


WHISPER
HEY... HE'S REALLY GOOD.
SURE YOU HAVEN'T FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM?
DON'T BE SILLY.

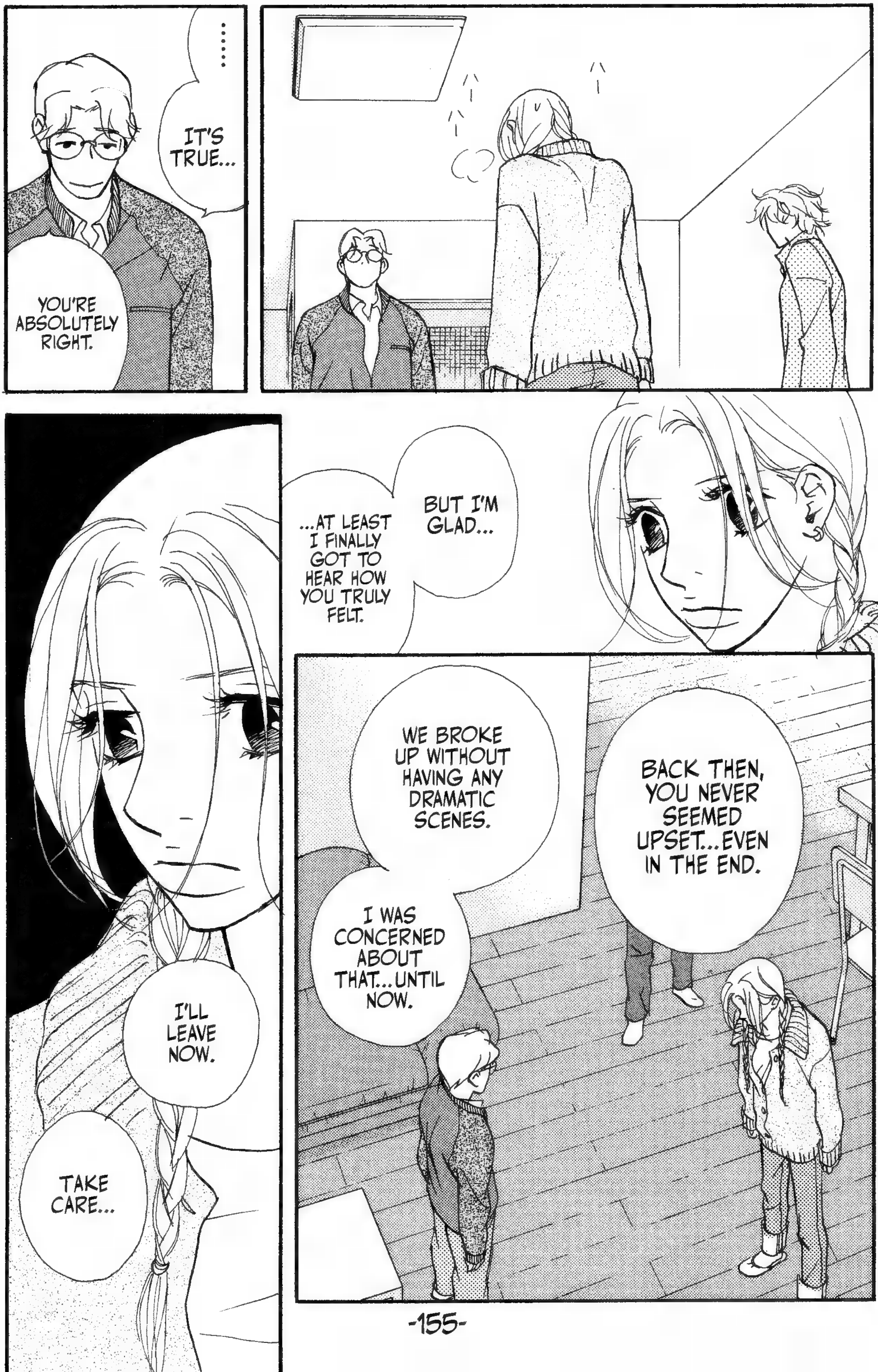

I THINK THEY CALLED THEM "SWEET VIOLETS" IN THE STORE...
...SORRY. I KNOW IT'S A PRETTY CHEAP BIRTHDAY PRESENT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY... BUT THESE LEAVES ARE GROWING REALLY WELL...
AT LEAST I'VE KEPT YOU ALIVE...
...BUT YOU DON'T WANNA BLOOM ANYMORE, DO YOU...?
THAT PLANT... YOU STILL TAKE CARE OF IT?
I FIGURED YOU JUST THREW OUT EVERYTHING I GAVE YOU.

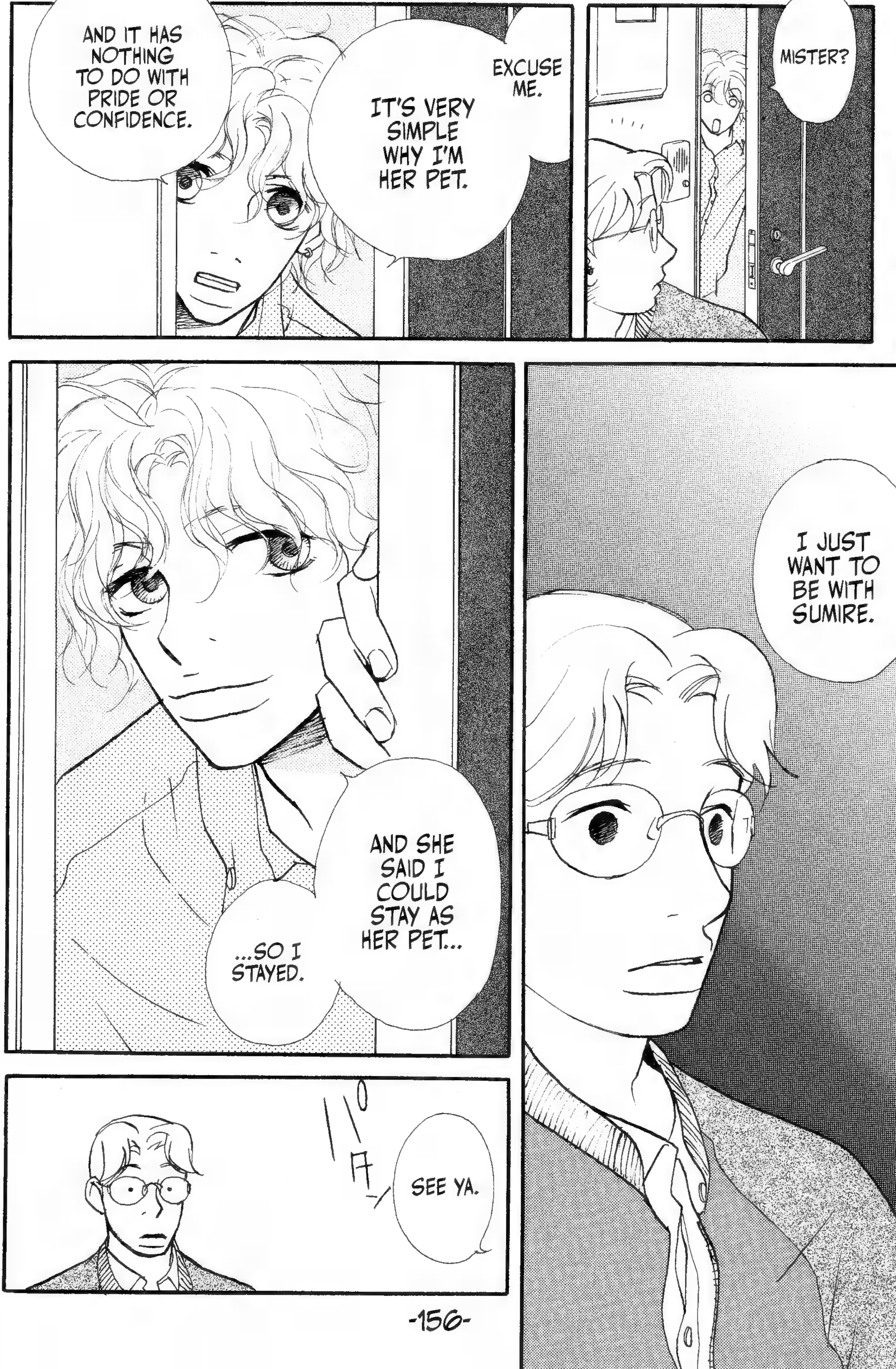

WHAT?!
YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOU DON'T HAVE A DUPLICATE KEY OF MY APARTMENT, DO YOU?!!
CREEPY!!
NO...I DID RING YOUR DOORBELL A COUPLE TIMES...
...AND FINALLY, YOUR SECOND COUSIN IN...
MOMO !!!
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT?!
OH, SORRY...IS THIS OLD MAN IS YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND?
OLD MAN!..?!
EXCUSE ME, SUMIRE...I'M ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS YOUR SECOND COUSIN...
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T STAY TOO LONG...
ACTUALLY...I'M GOING TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE AOMORI LOCATION PRETTY SOON.
BUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS...I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ONE LAST TIME.
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
UH, SUMIRE?
YOU SHUT UP.
WELL, OKAY... I DO HAVE ONE THING TO TELL YOU. THIS GUY ISN'T MY SECOND COUSIN.
HE'S MY PET.

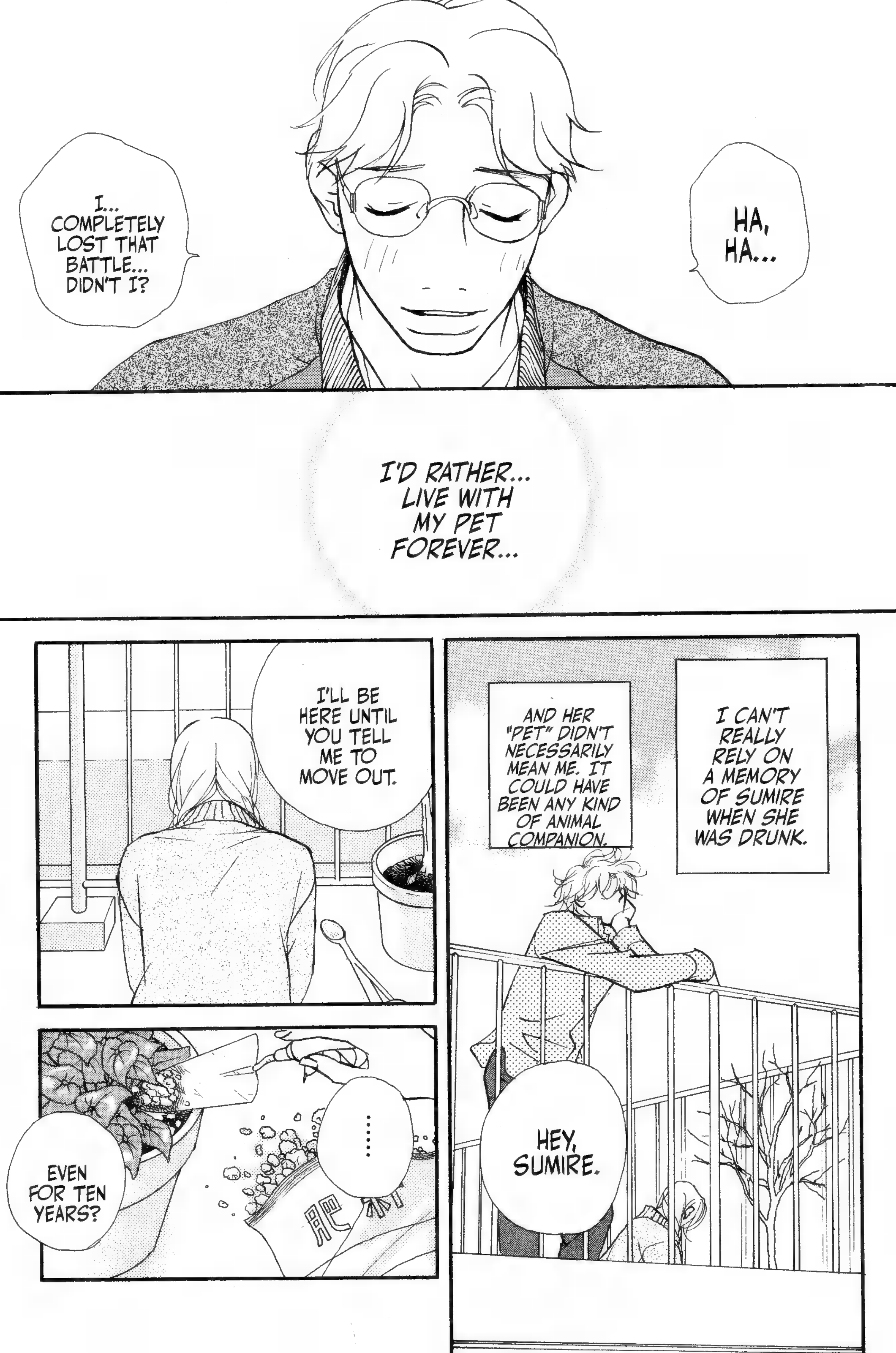
OOPS...
SHE SAID IT...
PE...
YOUR PET?!
UH-HUH. I CALL HIM MOMO. ISN'T HE CUTE?
WAIT A SECOND. W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN... PET...?
I THOUGHT... I HEARD YOU WERE SEEING THAT GUY IN THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT...
SMOOCH
SO?
THIS KID IS MY *PET*, NOT MY BOYFRIEND.
ARE YOU DATING TWO GUYS AT ONCE?
NO. AS I SAID...
WELL-- WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK?!
WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU, SUMIRE? YOU WEREN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE... WERE YOU?
D-DID MY AFFAIR AFFECT YOU THAT MUCH...?
WHAT?

HEY...
YOU'RE NOT SPONGING MONEY OFF HER...!
YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER, AREN'T YOU?!
UM...
WELL, SHE DOES FEED ME, BUT...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND SCAMS LIKE YOU!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE AS A MAN?
YOU... PARASITE...!
DON'T TOUCH MY PET.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PRIDE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
...BUT LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO YOU.
THOSE WHO ARE TRULY CONFIDENT OF THEMSELVES DON'T CARE ABOUT APPEARANCE.

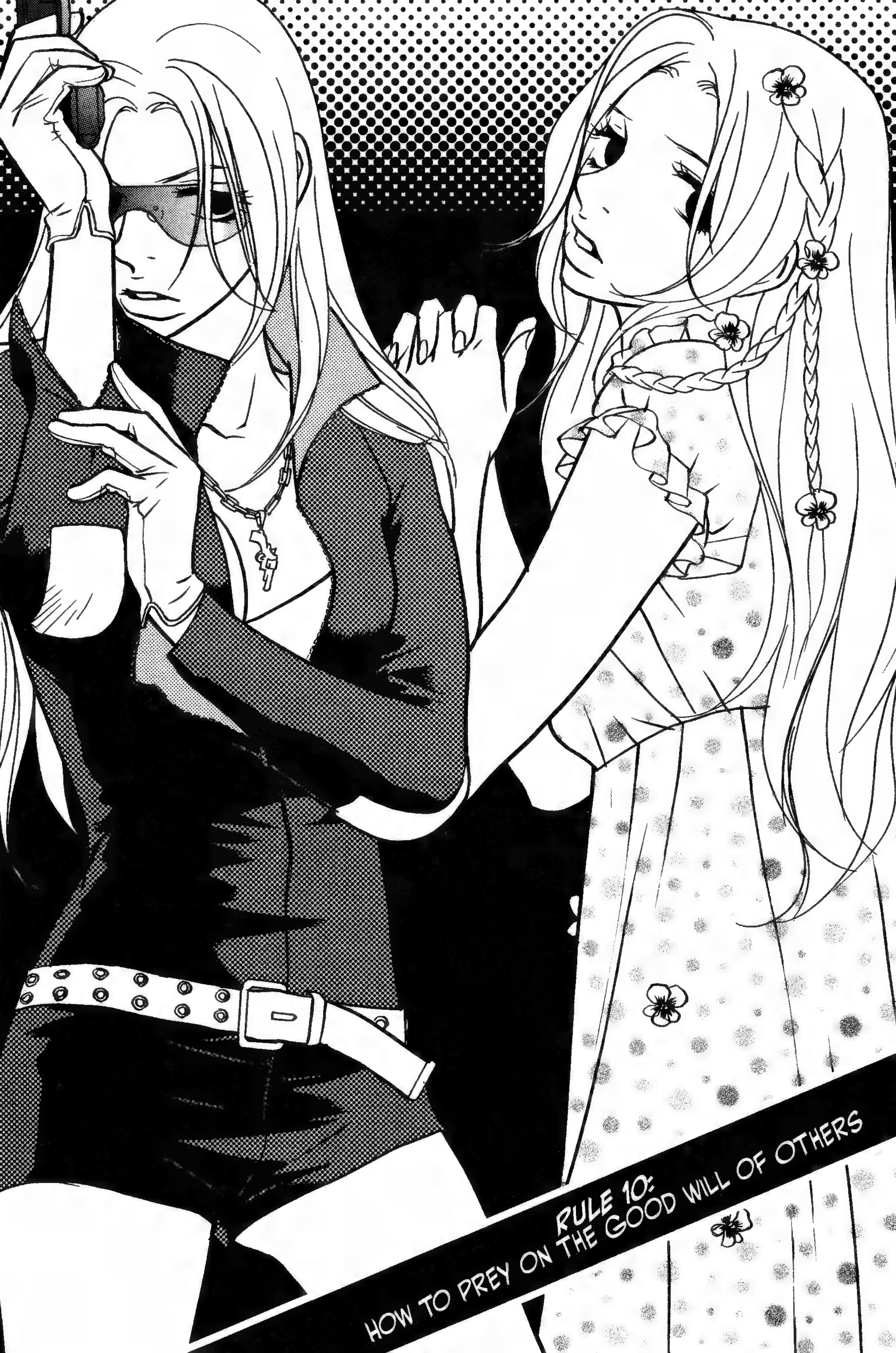
YOU USED TO ALWAYS MAKE ALL THESE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT ME, OUT OF HABIT.
"AWWW...YOU'RE SMART. YOU GRADUATED FROM A PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGE AND GET PAID LOTS OF MONEY. IT'S GOOD TO BE YOU."
BUT WHAT YOU *NEVER* NOTICED IS THAT I WAS GETTING *SICK* OF HEARING THOSE THINGS EVERY DAY!
AND AFTER ALL THAT, YOU ENDED UP COWARDLY RUNNING AWAY FROM ME.
WHAT KIND OF "PRIDE AS A MAN" IS *THAT?*
PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO CAN ONLY ENVY WHAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE--
MY MOMO IS ABOVE THOSE THINGS.

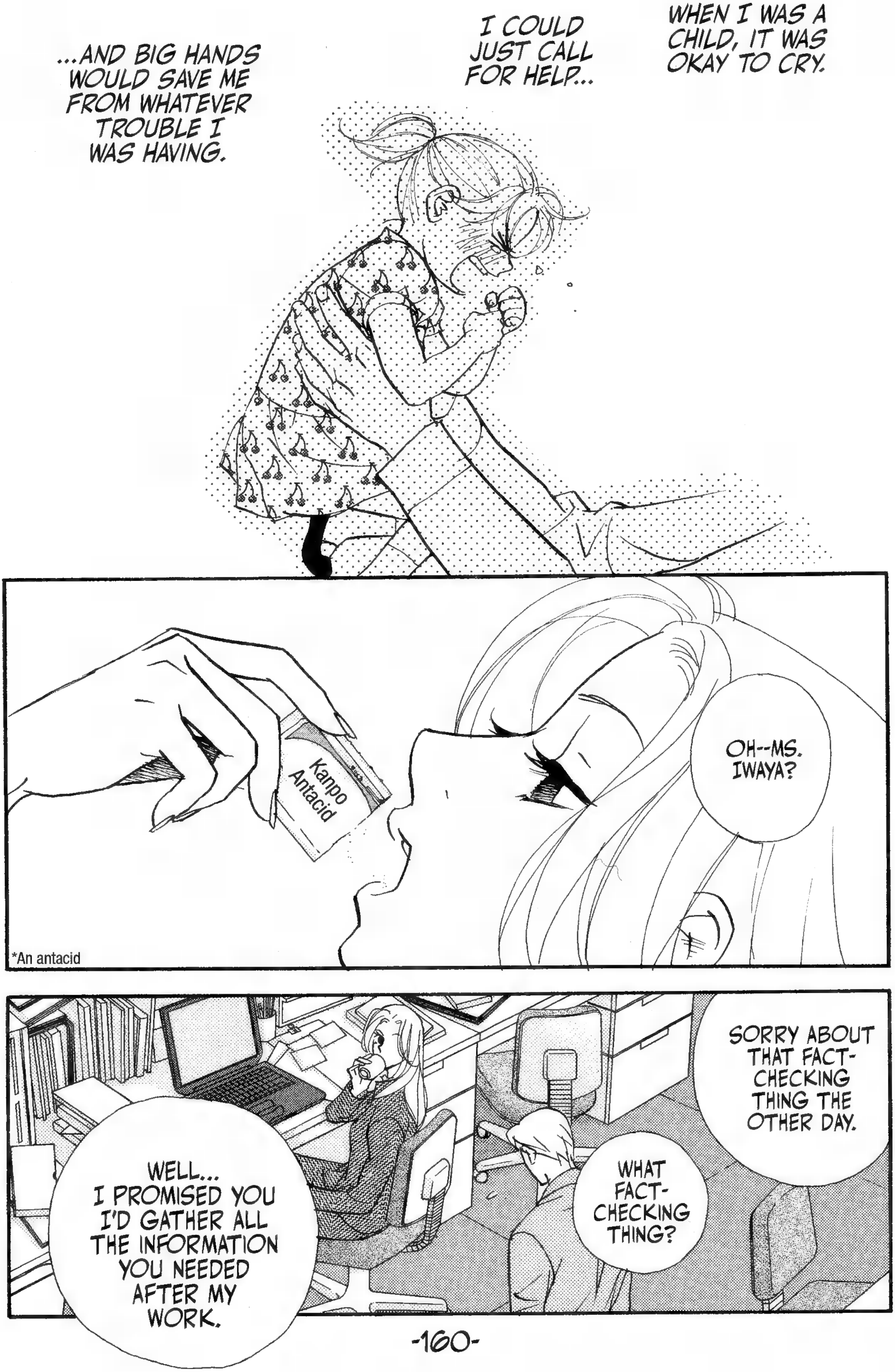

......
IT'S TRUE...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
BUT I'M GLAD...
...AT LEAST I FINALLY GOT TO HEAR HOW YOU TRULY FELT.
BACK THEN, YOU NEVER SEEMED UPSET...EVEN IN THE END.
WE BROKE UP WITHOUT HAVING ANY DRAMATIC SCENES.
I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THAT...UNTIL NOW.
I'LL LEAVE NOW.
TAKE CARE...


MISTER?
EXCUSE ME.
IT'S VERY SIMPLE WHY I'M HER PET.
AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PRIDE OR CONFIDENCE.
I JUST WANT TO BE WITH SUMIRE.
AND SHE SAID I COULD STAY AS HER PET...
...SO I STAYED.
SEE YA.


HA, HA...
I... COMPLETELY LOST THAT BATTLE... DIDN'T I?
I'D RATHER... LIVE WITH MY PET FOREVER...
I CAN'T REALLY RELY ON A MEMORY OF SUMIRE WHEN SHE WAS DRUNK.
AND HER "PET" DIDN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ME. IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY KIND OF ANIMAL COMPANION.
HEY, SUMIRE.
I'LL BE HERE UNTIL YOU TELL ME TO MOVE OUT.
......
EVEN FOR TEN YEARS?

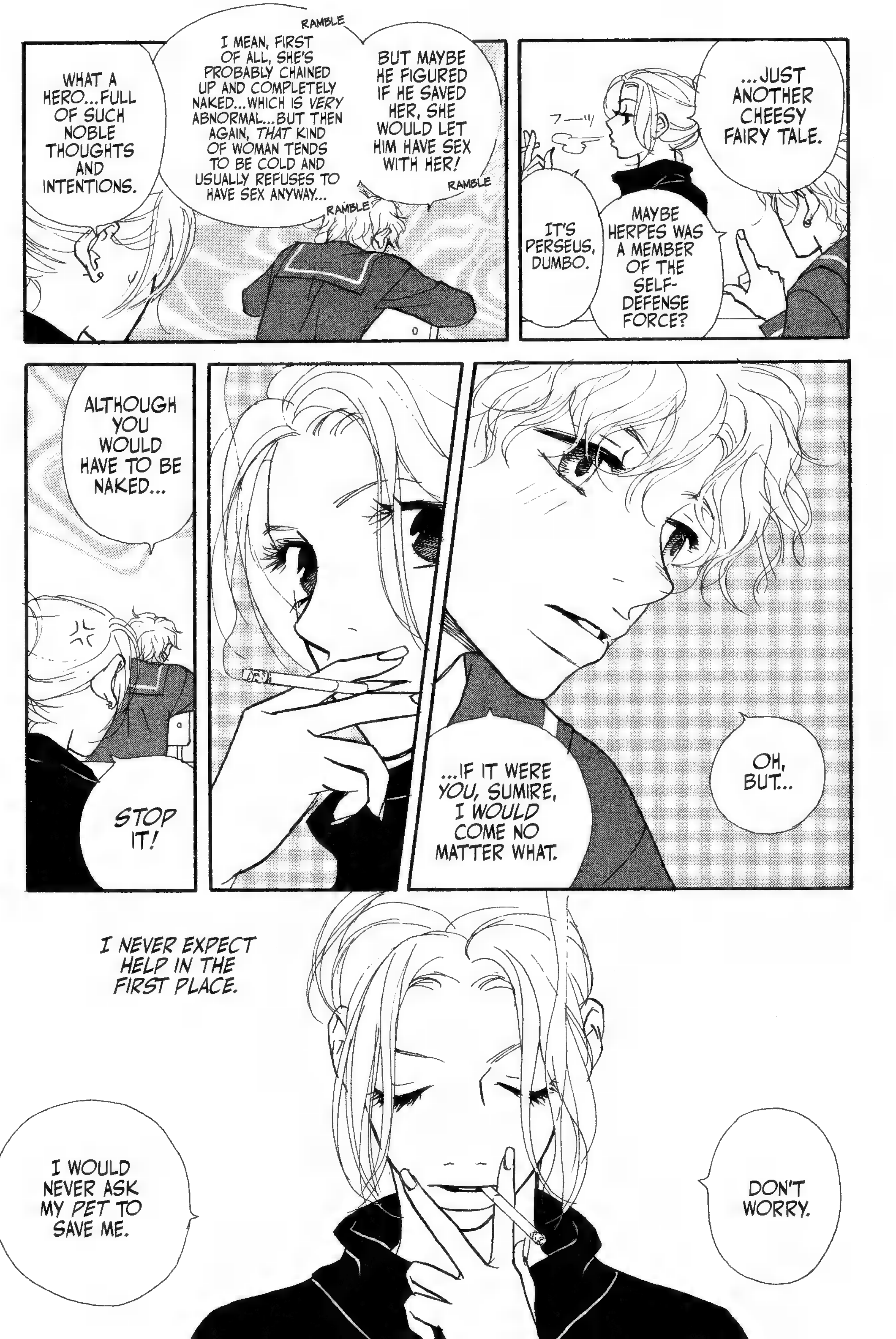
TEN YEARS?
SURE.
EVEN IF I GET OLD?
EVEN IF YOU GET OLD.
OH.
A BUD IS OPENING...


RULE 10:
HOW TO PREY ON THE GOOD WILL OF OTHERS


WHEN I WAS A CHILD, IT WAS OKAY TO CRY.
I COULD JUST CALL FOR HELP...
...AND BIG HANDS WOULD SAVE ME FROM WHATEVER TROUBLE I WAS HAVING.
Kanpo Antacid
OH--MS. IWAYA?
*An antacid
SORRY ABOUT THAT FACT-CHECKING THING THE OTHER DAY.
WHAT FACT-CHECKING THING?
WELL... I PROMISED YOU I'D GATHER ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEEDED AFTER MY WORK.

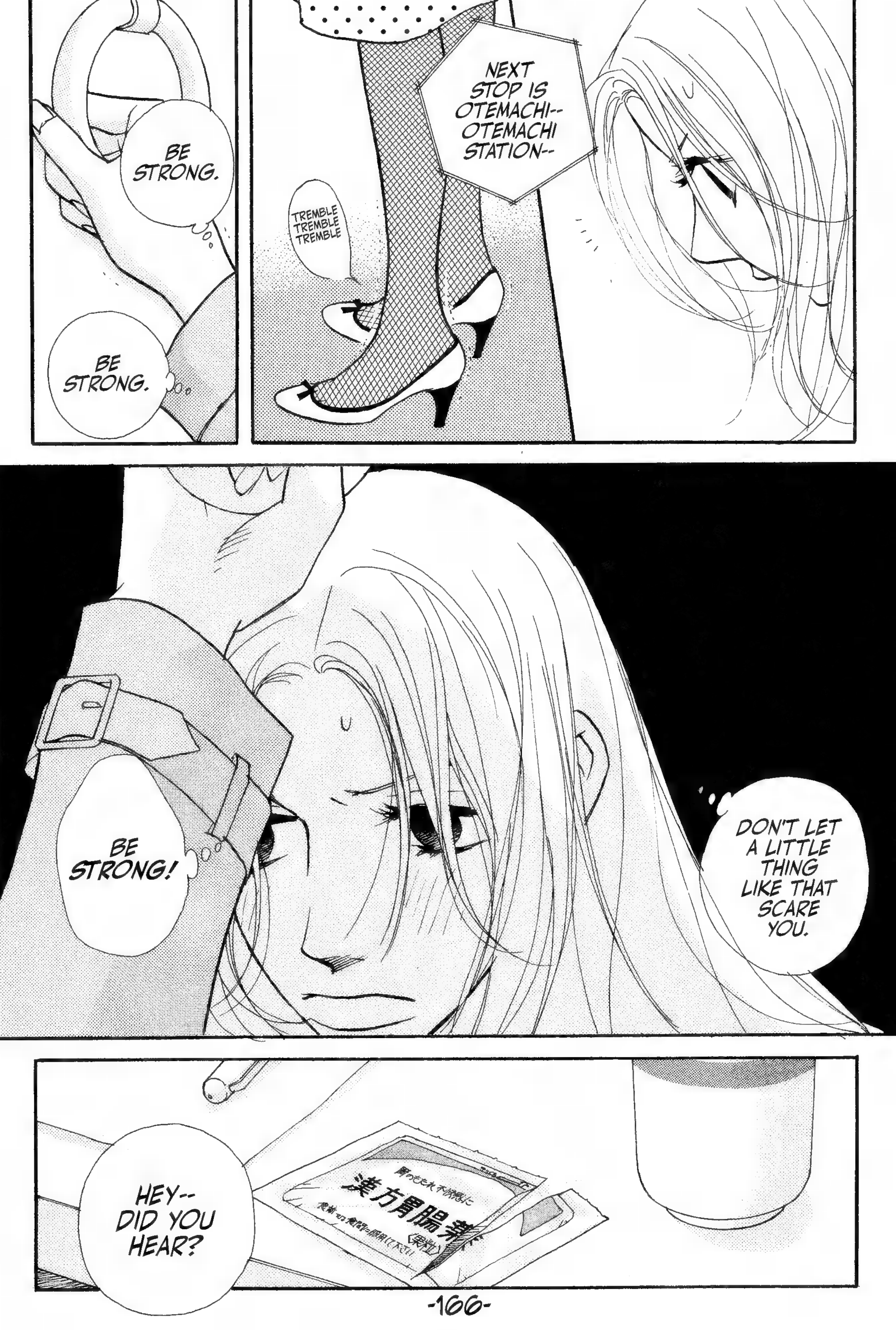
BUT THEN I GOT SO BUSY I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT...
THAT'S FINE. IT WAS ORIGINALLY MY JOB, ANYWAY.
I KNOW... BUT...
BESIDES, I HAPPENED TO FIND ALL THE INFO I NEEDED YESTERDAY, WHILE I WAS SEARCHING FOR A RETURNED PACKAGE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S RIGHT. I NEVER GET DISAPPOINTED.
'CAUSE I NEVER EXPECT ANYTHING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THAT LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY HARD FRONT-PAGE STORY.
IS THAT ANOTHER REVISION?
NAH, THIS IS STILL THE SECOND DRAFT.
MR. URIYAMA AND I ARE TAKING TURNS WRITING STORIES FOR THE FRONT PAGE, SO I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO WORK ON BOTH ARTICLES.
THERE ARE NO BIG HANDS TO SAVE ME ANYMORE...
WELCOME HOME!!

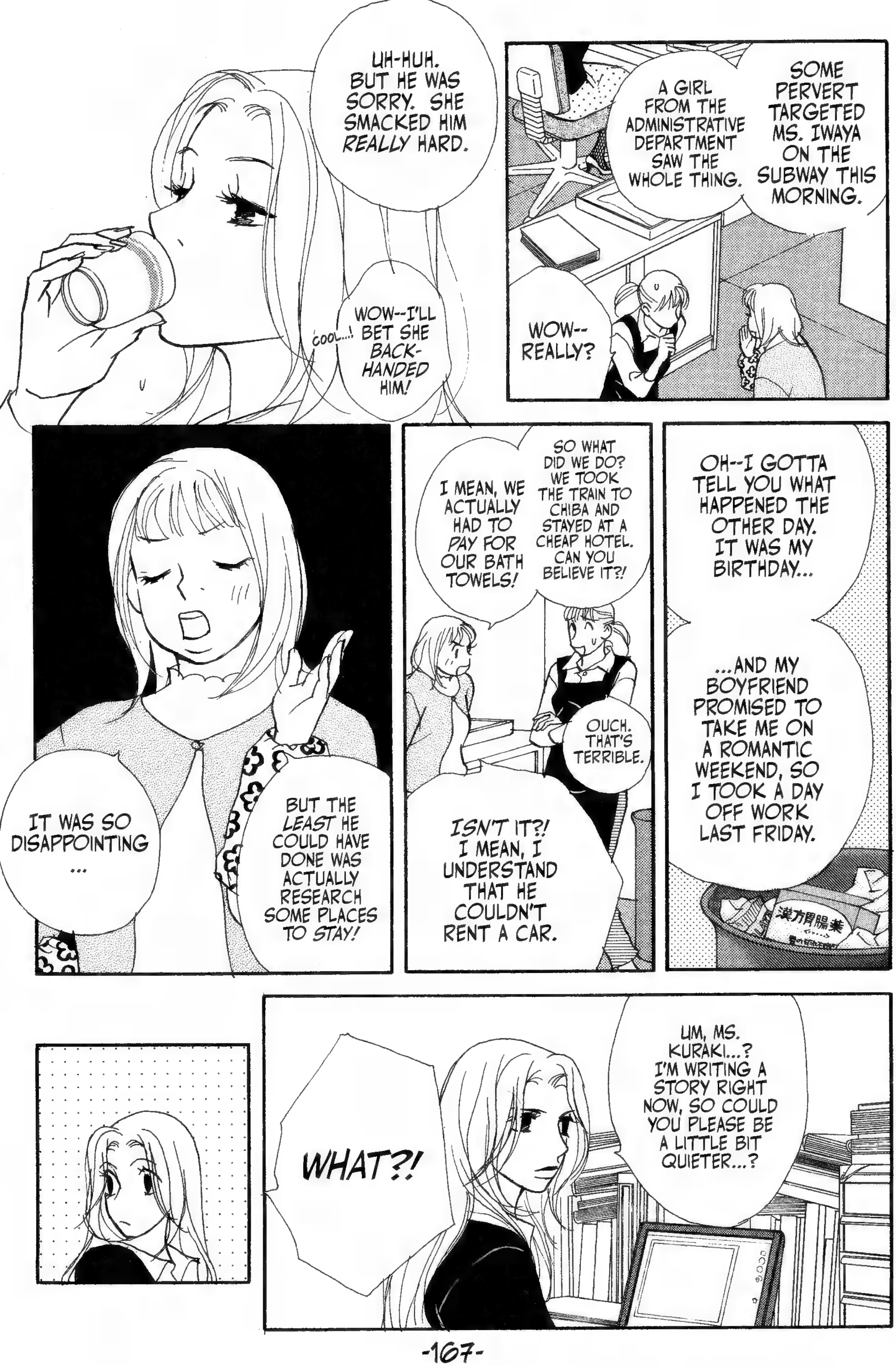
EVERY TIME, EVERY DAY.
STOP JUMPING ON ME LIKE THAT!!!
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GONNA DIE!
NICE CATCH, SUMIRE! ♡
OH YEAH...I'M GONNA BE IN ANOTHER SHOW.
IT'S NOT FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS, THOUGH.
DON'T TAKE OUT THE BEANS!
TONIGHT'S DINNER IS PORK AND BEANS.
IT'S AN ORIGINAL WORK WITH A GREEK MYTHOLOGY MOTIF.
I'M PLAYING A HERO WHO SAVES A PRINCESS FROM AN OCEAN MONSTER THAT'S TRYING TO EAT HER.
I THINK HIS NAME IS...
...HERPES? OR SOMETHING?
PERSEUS, I THINK.
THE GUY WHO RIDES PEGASUS AND SAVES A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.
RUSHING TO SAVE A LADY IN THE FACE OF DANGER...


WHAT A HERO...FULL OF SUCH NOBLE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS.
RAMBLE
I MEAN, FIRST OF ALL, SHE'S PROBABLY CHAINED UP AND COMPLETELY NAKED...WHICH IS *VERY* ABNORMAL...BUT THEN AGAIN, *THAT* KIND OF WOMAN TENDS TO BE COLD AND USUALLY REFUSES TO HAVE SEX ANYWAY...
RAMBLE
BUT MAYBE HE FIGURED IF HE SAVED HER, SHE WOULD LET HIM HAVE SEX WITH HER!
RAMBLE
フーッ
...JUST ANOTHER CHEESY FAIRY TALE.
MAYBE HERPES WAS A MEMBER OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE?
IT'S PERSEUS, DUMBO.
ALTHOUGH YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE NAKED...
STOP IT!
OH, BUT...
...IF IT WERE *YOU*, SUMIRE, I *WOULD* COME NO MATTER WHAT.
I NEVER EXPECT HELP IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DON'T WORRY.
I WOULD NEVER ASK MY *PET* TO SAVE ME.

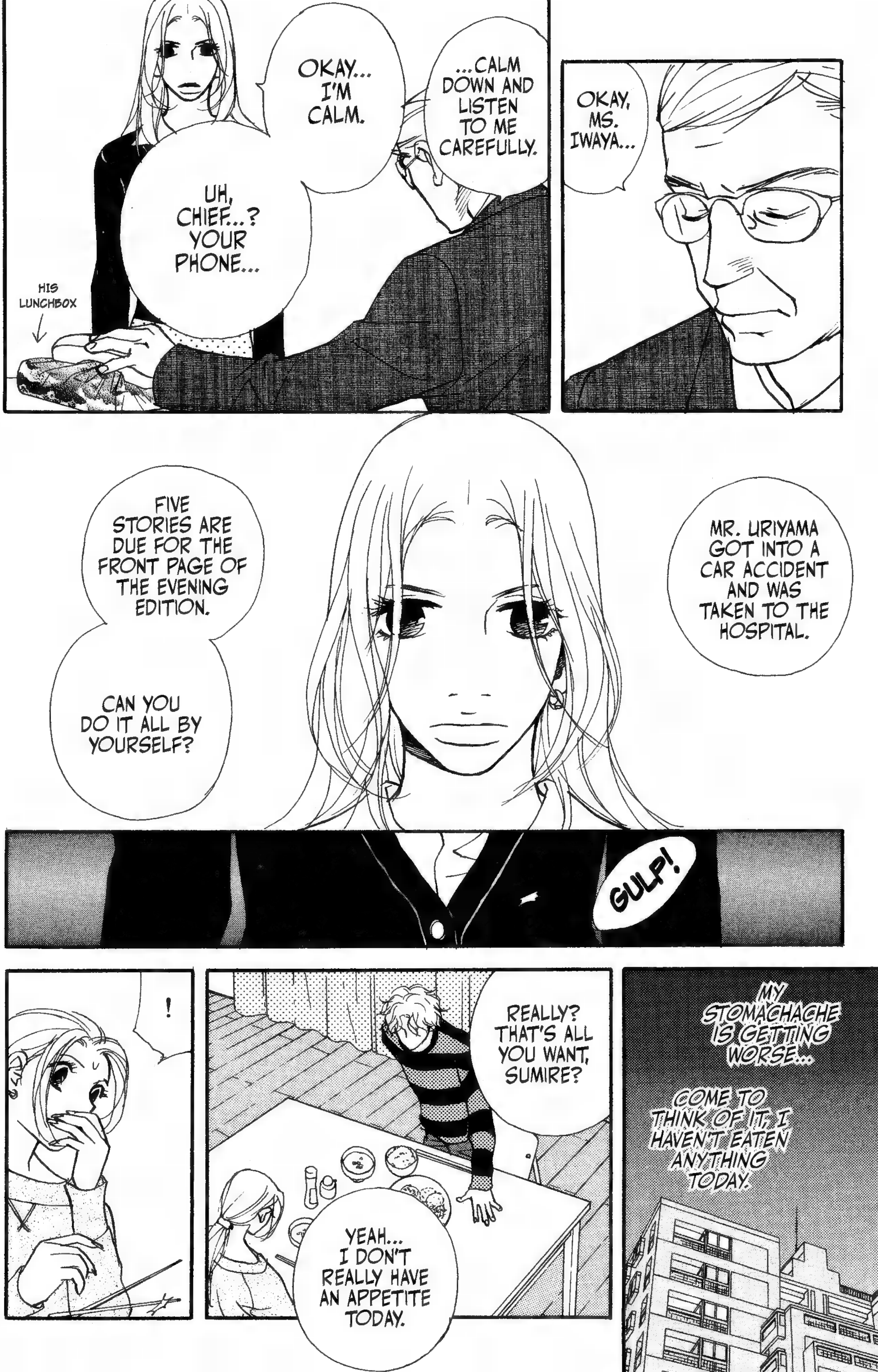
UNLIKE MY OLD SELF... WHEN I WAS A CHILD-DAMSEL, SO LONG AGO...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ドキッ

OUCH!
KYA!
HOW DARE YOU TOUCH ME?!
HIBIYA-- HIBIYA STATION--
UGH...
I...
...I'M SORRY...
OH!
......
......
THAT IS ONE STRONG, SCARY WOMAN.
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
THESE DAYS, EVEN PERVERTS HAVE TO WATCH THEIR BACKS!


BE STRONG.
BE STRONG.
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE
NEXT STOP IS OTEMACHI-- OTEMACHI STATION--
BE STRONG!
DON'T LET A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT SCARE YOU.
HEY-- DID YOU HEAR?
漢方胃腸薬



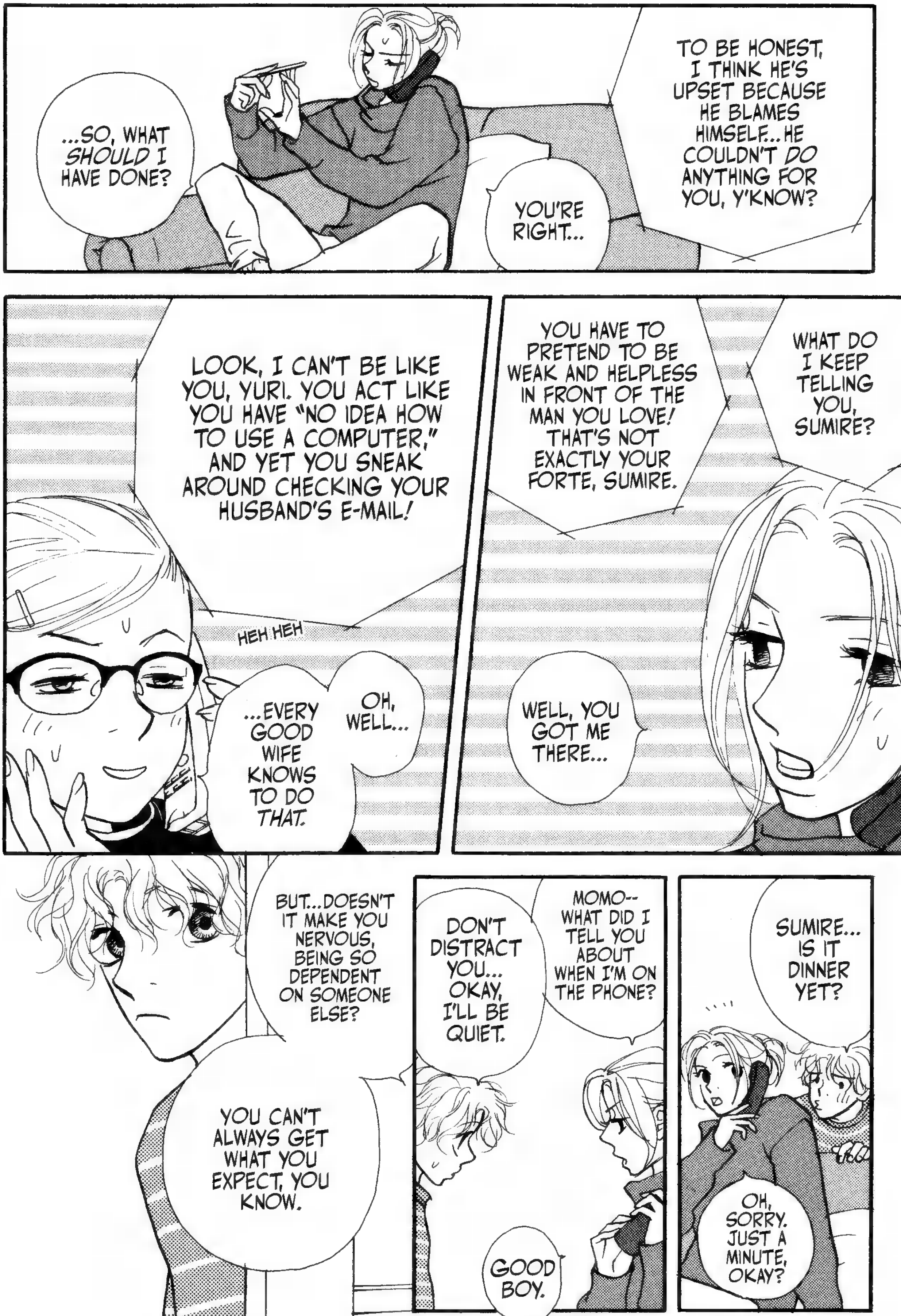
SOME PERVERT TARGETED MS. IWAYA ON THE SUBWAY THIS MORNING.
A GIRL FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT SAW THE WHOLE THING.
WOW--REALLY?
UH-HUH. BUT HE WAS SORRY. SHE SMACKED HIM *REALLY* HARD.
WOW--I'LL BET SHE *BACK-HANDED* HIM!
COOL...!
OH--I GOTTA TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY. IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY...
...AND MY BOYFRIEND PROMISED TO TAKE ME ON A ROMANTIC WEEKEND, SO I TOOK A DAY OFF WORK LAST FRIDAY.
漢方胃腸薬
SO WHAT DID WE DO? WE TOOK THE TRAIN TO CHIBA AND STAYED AT A CHEAP HOTEL. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
I MEAN, WE ACTUALLY HAD TO *PAY* FOR OUR BATH TOWELS!
OUCH. THAT'S TERRIBLE.
ISN'T IT?! I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT HE COULDN'T RENT A CAR.
BUT THE *LEAST* HE COULD HAVE DONE WAS ACTUALLY RESEARCH SOME PLACES TO *STAY!*
IT WAS SO DISAPPOINTING...
UM, MS. KURAKI...? I'M WRITING A STORY RIGHT NOW, SO COULD YOU PLEASE BE A LITTLE BIT QUIETER...?
WHAT?!


OKAY, MS. IWAYA...
...CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY.
OKAY... I'M CALM.
UH, CHIEF...? YOUR PHONE...
HIS LUNCHBOX
MR. URIYAMA GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL.
FIVE STORIES ARE DUE FOR THE FRONT PAGE OF THE EVENING EDITION.
CAN YOU DO IT ALL BY YOURSELF?
GULP!
MY STOMACHACHE IS GETTING WORSE...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING TODAY.
REALLY? THAT'S ALL YOU WANT, SUMIRE?
YEAH... I DON'T REALLY HAVE AN APPETITE TODAY.
!

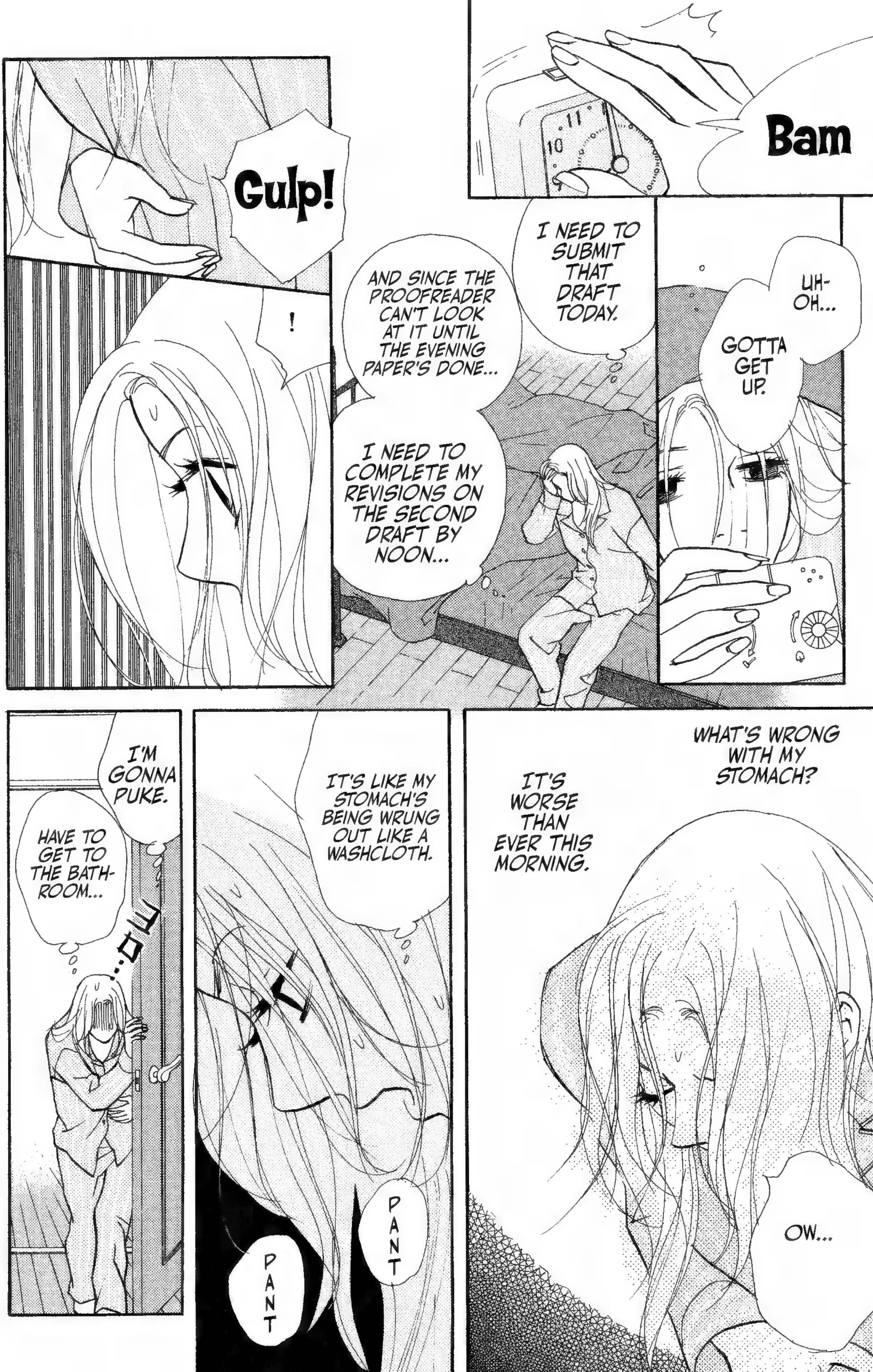
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY?!
I DUNNO... ALL OF A SUDDEN...I FELT REALLY SICK AND NAUSEOUS.
SUMIRE... ARE YOU...
...PREGNANT?
OH, NO...I'M ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE ...?
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND...?
I'M SORRY. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU WORRY.
IT'S JUST GASTRITIS. I'LL BE FINE.
PET PET
REALLY?
REALLY.

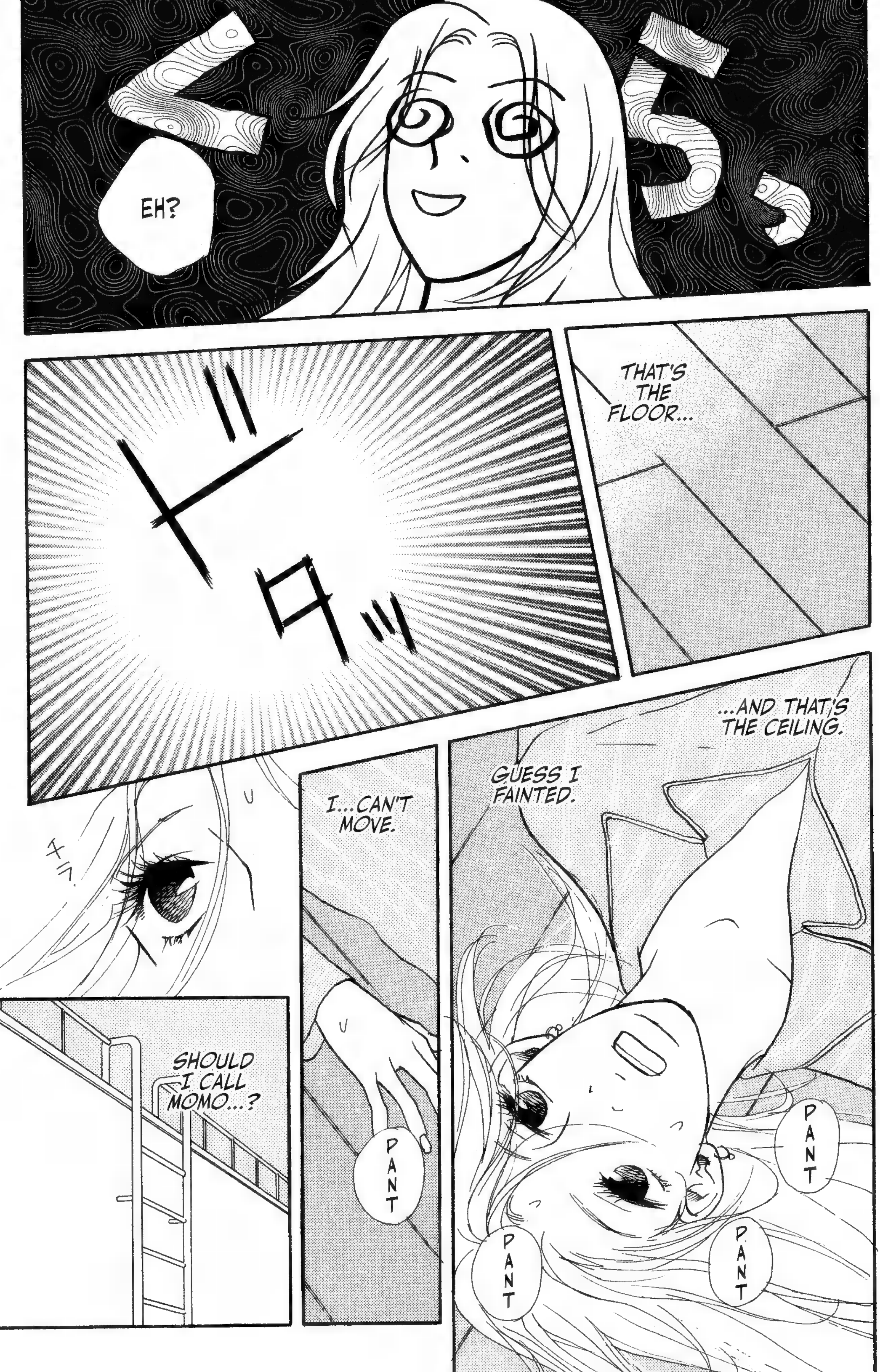
......
MS. IWAYA, I HEARD YOU WERE ATTACKED BY A PERVERT.
HOW...DID THIS GOSSIP FLY ALL THE WAY TO THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT?
AH... YES.
WHEN?
TUESDAY... I THINK.
TUESDAY... BUT THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO ME ABOUT IT...?
EH... WELL...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SOMETHING YOU'D REALLY WANNA HEAR...
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
IS HE... ANGRY...?
......

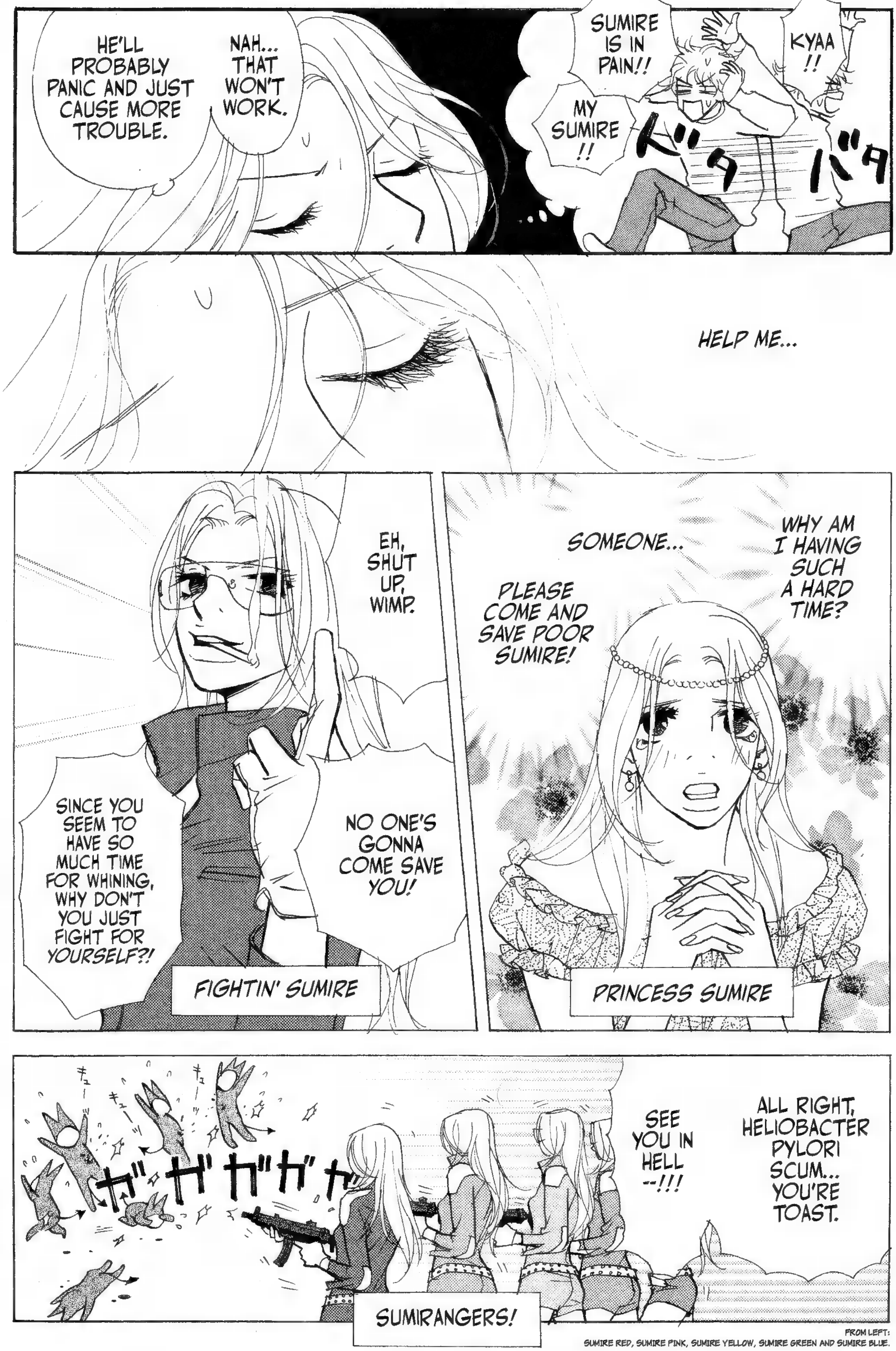
MS. IWAYA, YOU'RE STRONG...
...JUST AS I THOUGHT.
ANY PROBLEMS YOU HAVE, YOU SOLVE BY YOURSELF.
I DIDN'T WANNA THINK ABOUT IT. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T TELL HIM.
BUT I SHOULD HAVE. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM EVERYTHING...
CLUTCH
OUCH...THAT MUST HAVE HURT HIM PRETTY BAD.


TO BE HONEST, I THINK HE'S UPSET BECAUSE HE BLAMES HIMSELF... HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, Y'KNOW?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
...SO, WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?
WHAT DO I KEEP TELLING YOU, SUMIRE?
YOU HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE WEAK AND HELPLESS IN FRONT OF THE MAN YOU LOVE! THAT'S NOT EXACTLY YOUR FORTE, SUMIRE.
WELL, YOU GOT ME THERE...
LOOK, I CAN'T BE LIKE YOU, YURI. YOU ACT LIKE YOU HAVE "NO IDEA HOW TO USE A COMPUTER," AND YET YOU SNEAK AROUND CHECKING YOUR HUSBAND'S E-MAIL!
HEH HEH
OH, WELL...
...EVERY GOOD WIFE KNOWS TO DO THAT.
SUMIRE... IS IT DINNER YET?
OH, SORRY. JUST A MINUTE, OKAY?
MOMO-- WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT WHEN I'M ON THE PHONE?
DON'T DISTRACT YOU... OKAY, I'LL BE QUIET.
GOOD BOY.
BUT...DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU NERVOUS, BEING SO DEPENDENT ON SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU EXPECT, YOU KNOW.

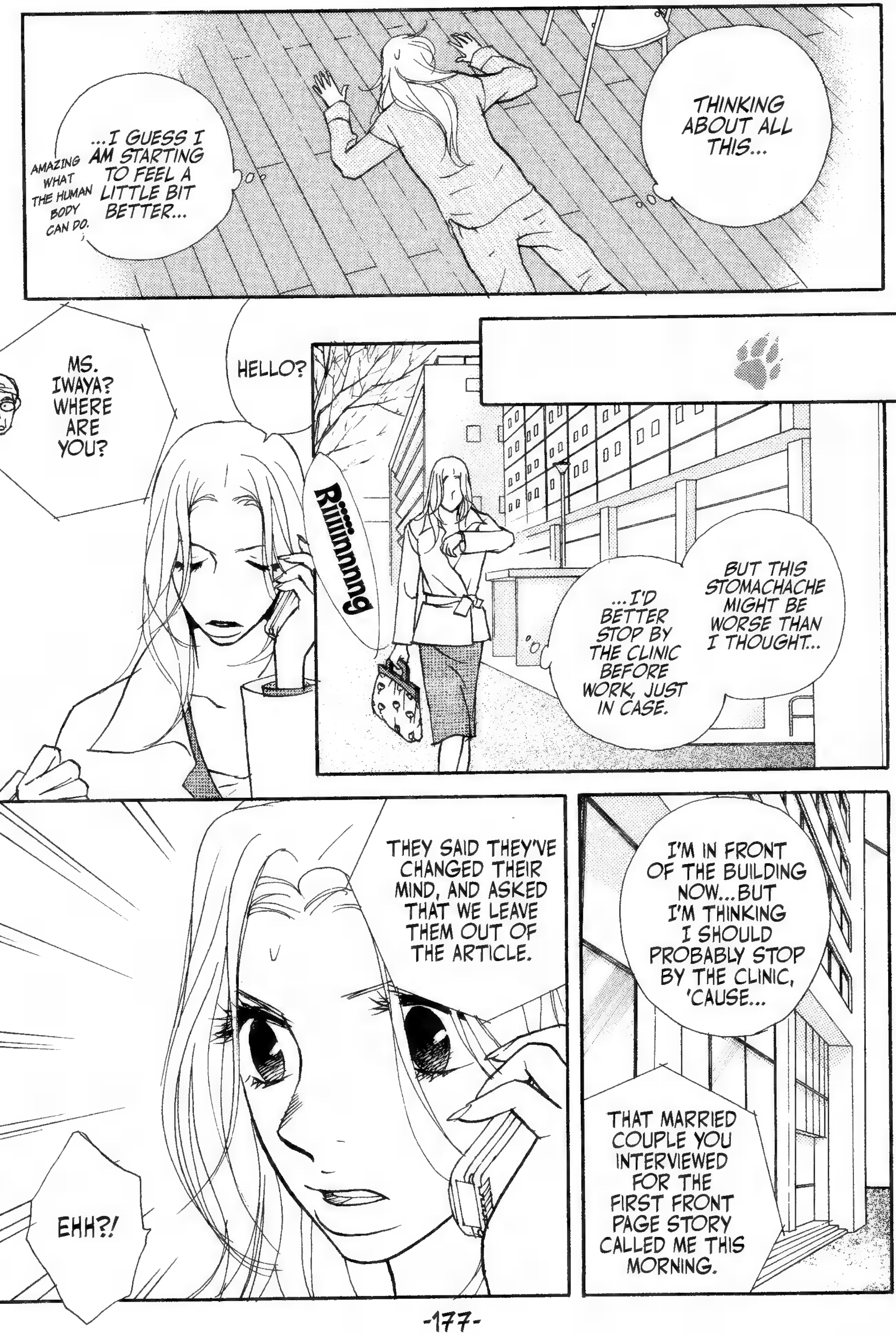
WHEN YOU EXPECT THINGS FROM OTHER PEOPLE... ESPECIALLY MEN...ALL YOU GET FOR IT IS DISAPPOINTMENT.
AND IF YOU GET UPSET WITH THAT PERSON FOR NOT DELIVERING WHAT YOU WANTED, IT'S A BIG HASSLE FOR THEM.
IT WAS SO DISAPPOINTING...
GIVEN THE CHOICE OF WHETHER TO DEPEND ON SOMEONE...
...I'D RATHER JUST LIVE ALONE LIKE THIS FOREVER.
HUH?
SORRY-- CHANGING A DIAPER-- WHAT'D YOU SAY JUST NOW?
HELP ME. HELP ME.
SOMEONE...
OH, NOTHING... NOTHING IMPORTANT...

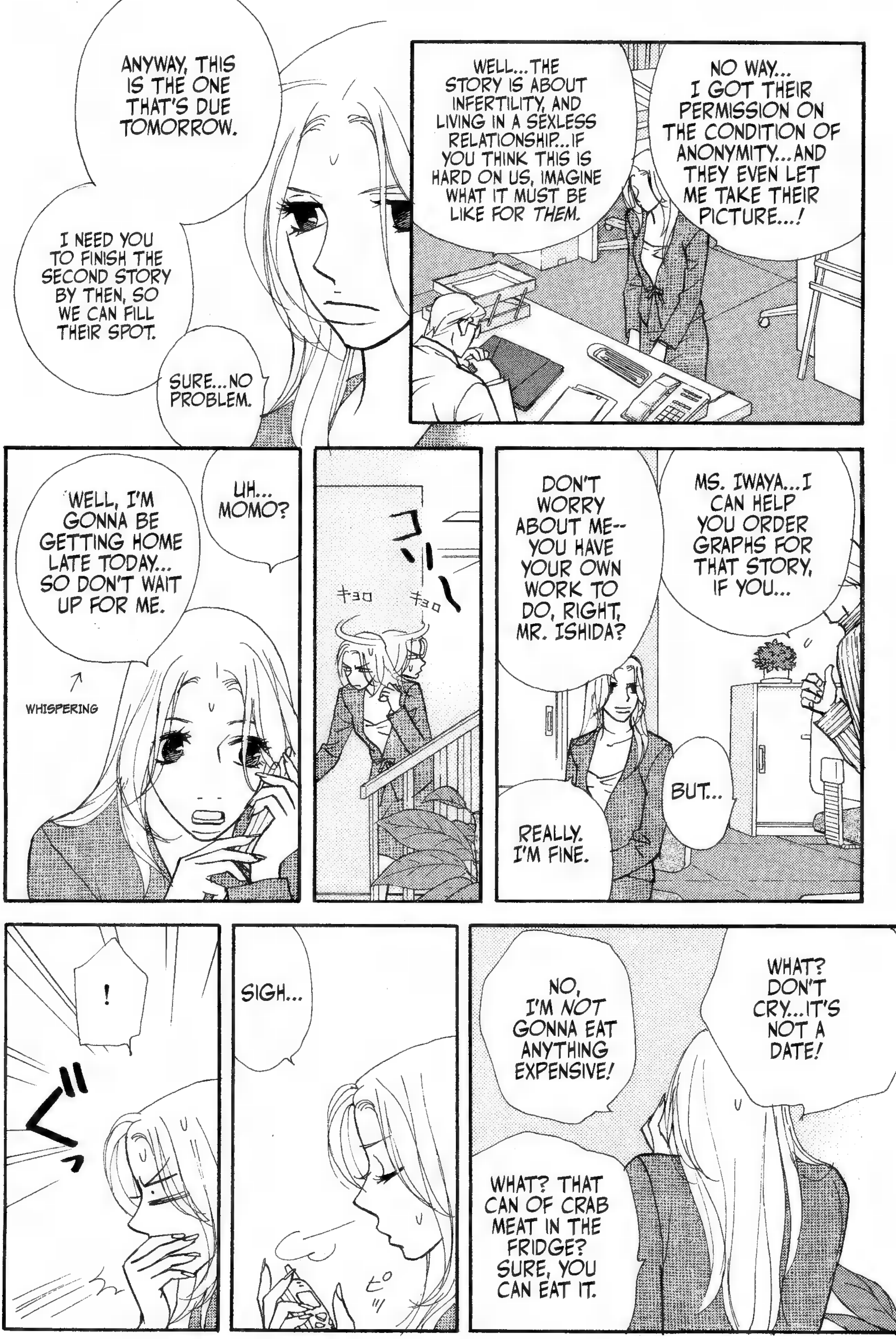

Bam
UH-OH... GOTTA GET UP.
I NEED TO SUBMIT THAT DRAFT TODAY.
AND SINCE THE PROOFREADER CAN'T LOOK AT IT UNTIL THE EVENING PAPER'S DONE...
I NEED TO COMPLETE MY REVISIONS ON THE SECOND DRAFT BY NOON...
Gulp!
!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY STOMACH?
IT'S WORSE THAN EVER THIS MORNING.
OW...
IT'S LIKE MY STOMACH'S BEING WRUNG OUT LIKE A WASHCLOTH.
PANT
PANT
I'M GONNA PUKE.
HAVE TO GET TO THE BATH-ROOM...
ヨロ...


EH?
THAT'S THE FLOOR...
...AND THAT'S THE CEILING.
GUESS I FAINTED.
PANT
PANT
PANT
I...CAN'T MOVE.
PANT
SHOULD I CALL MOMO...?

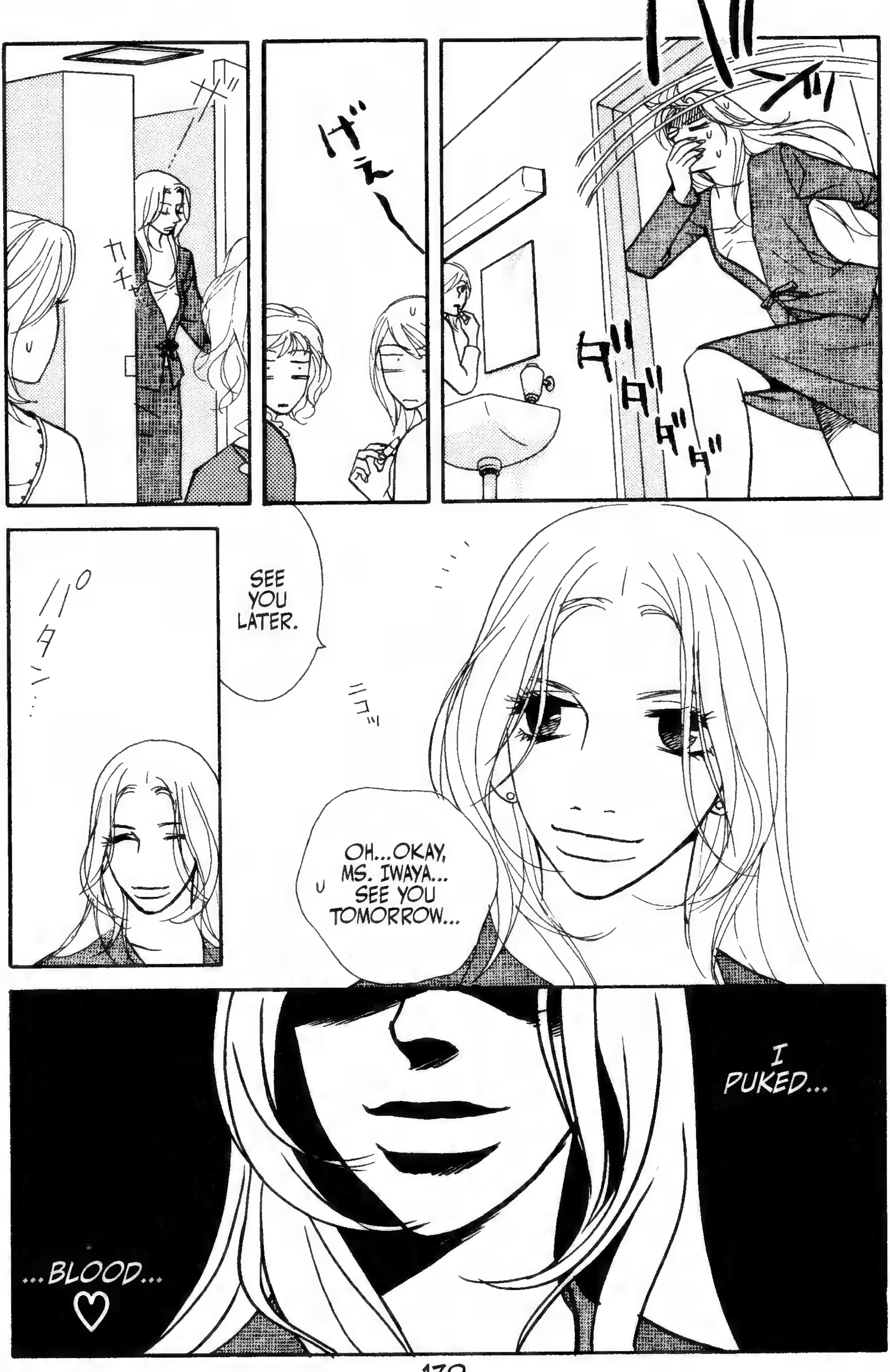


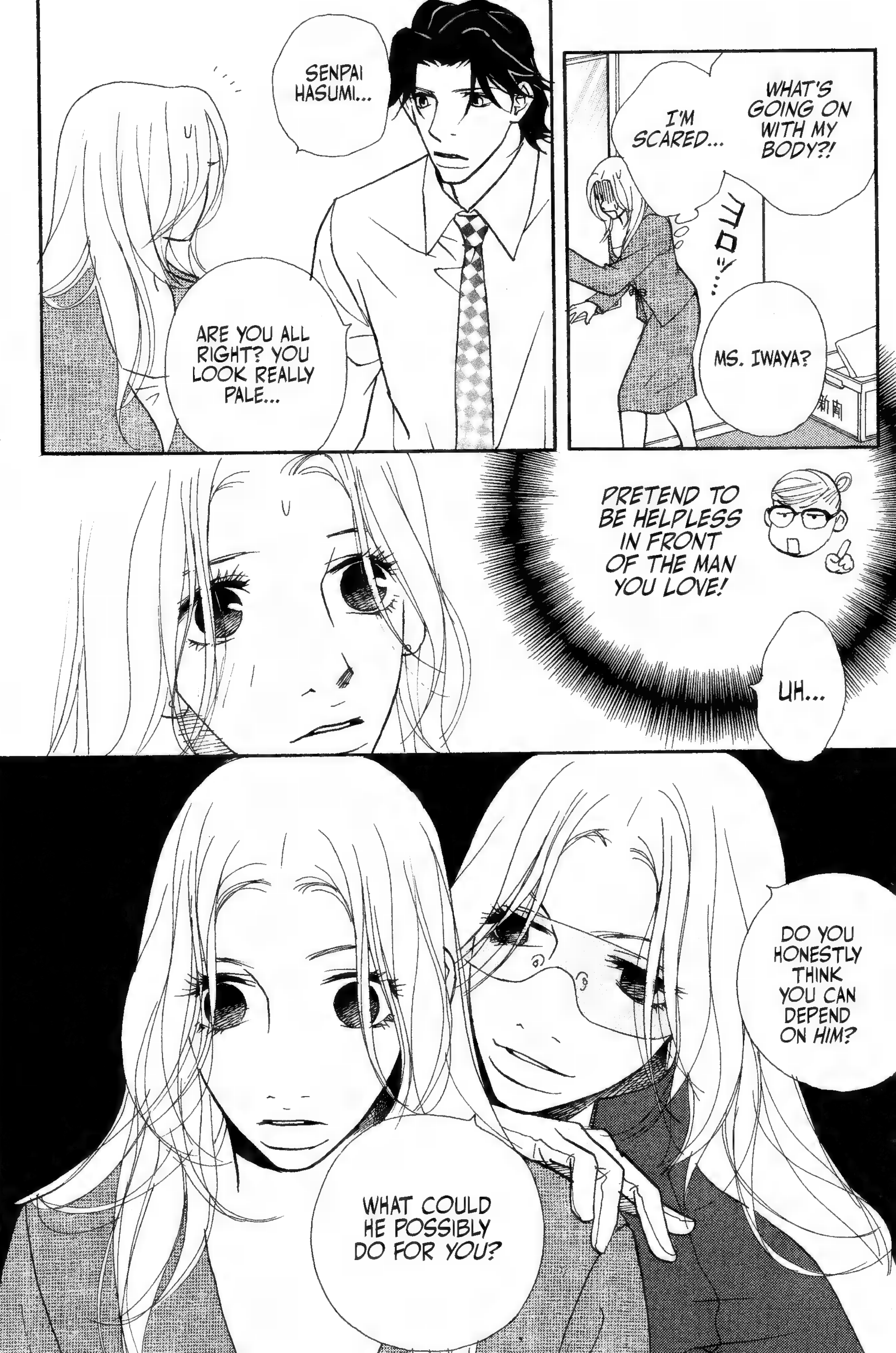
FROM LEFT:
SUMIRE RED, SUMIRE PINK, SUMIRE YELLOW, SUMIRE GREEN AND SUMIRE BLUE.


THINKING ABOUT ALL THIS...
...I GUESS I AM STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE BIT BETTER...
AMAZING WHAT THE HUMAN BODY CAN DO.
BUT THIS STOMACHACHE MIGHT BE WORSE THAN I THOUGHT...
...I'D BETTER STOP BY THE CLINIC BEFORE WORK, JUST IN CASE.
Riiiinnnng
HELLO?
MS. IWAYA? WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING NOW...BUT I'M THINKING I SHOULD PROBABLY STOP BY THE CLINIC, 'CAUSE...
THAT MARRIED COUPLE YOU INTERVIEWED FOR THE FIRST FRONT PAGE STORY CALLED ME THIS MORNING.
THEY SAID THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR MIND, AND ASKED THAT WE LEAVE THEM OUT OF THE ARTICLE.
EHH?!

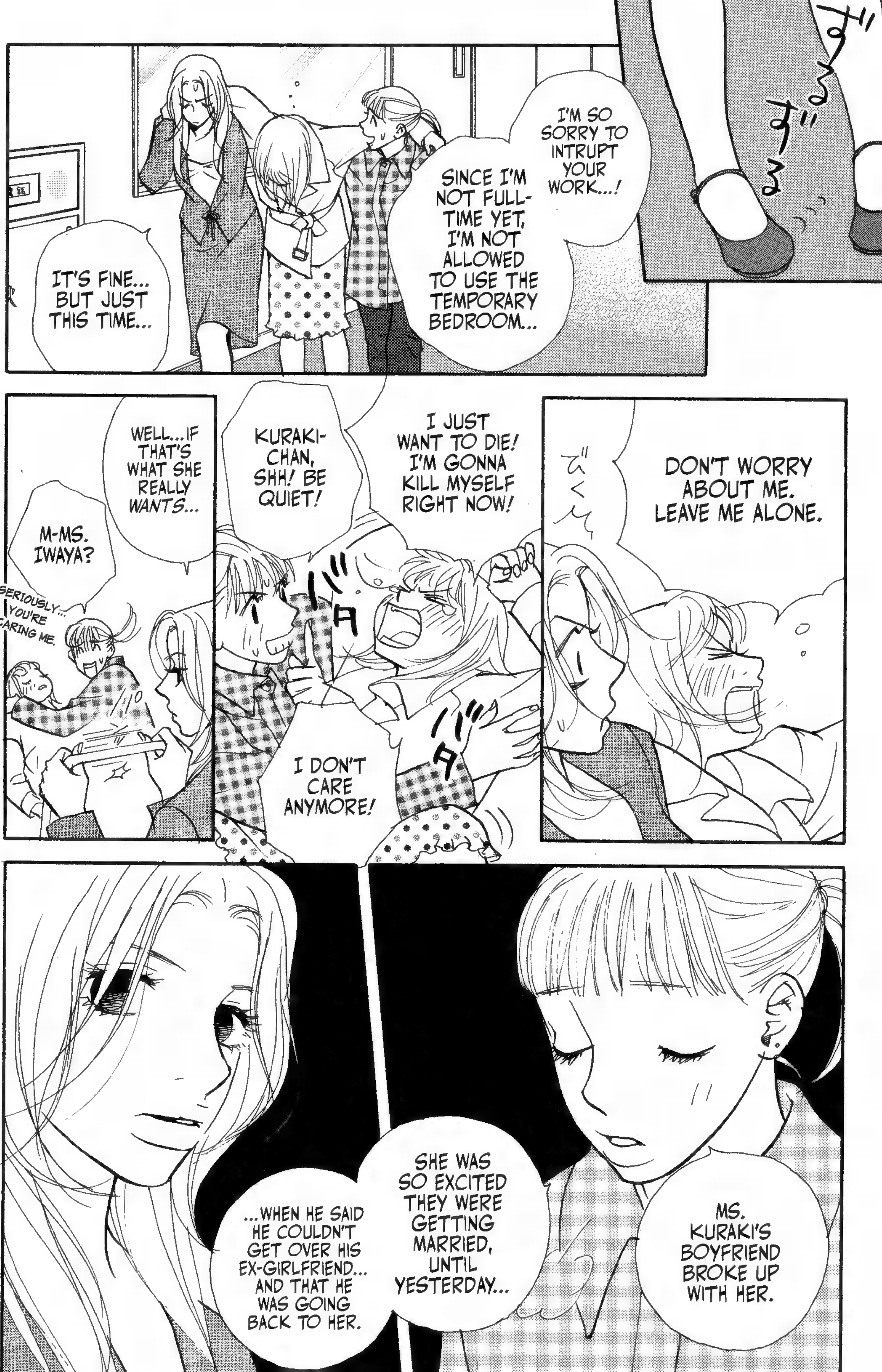


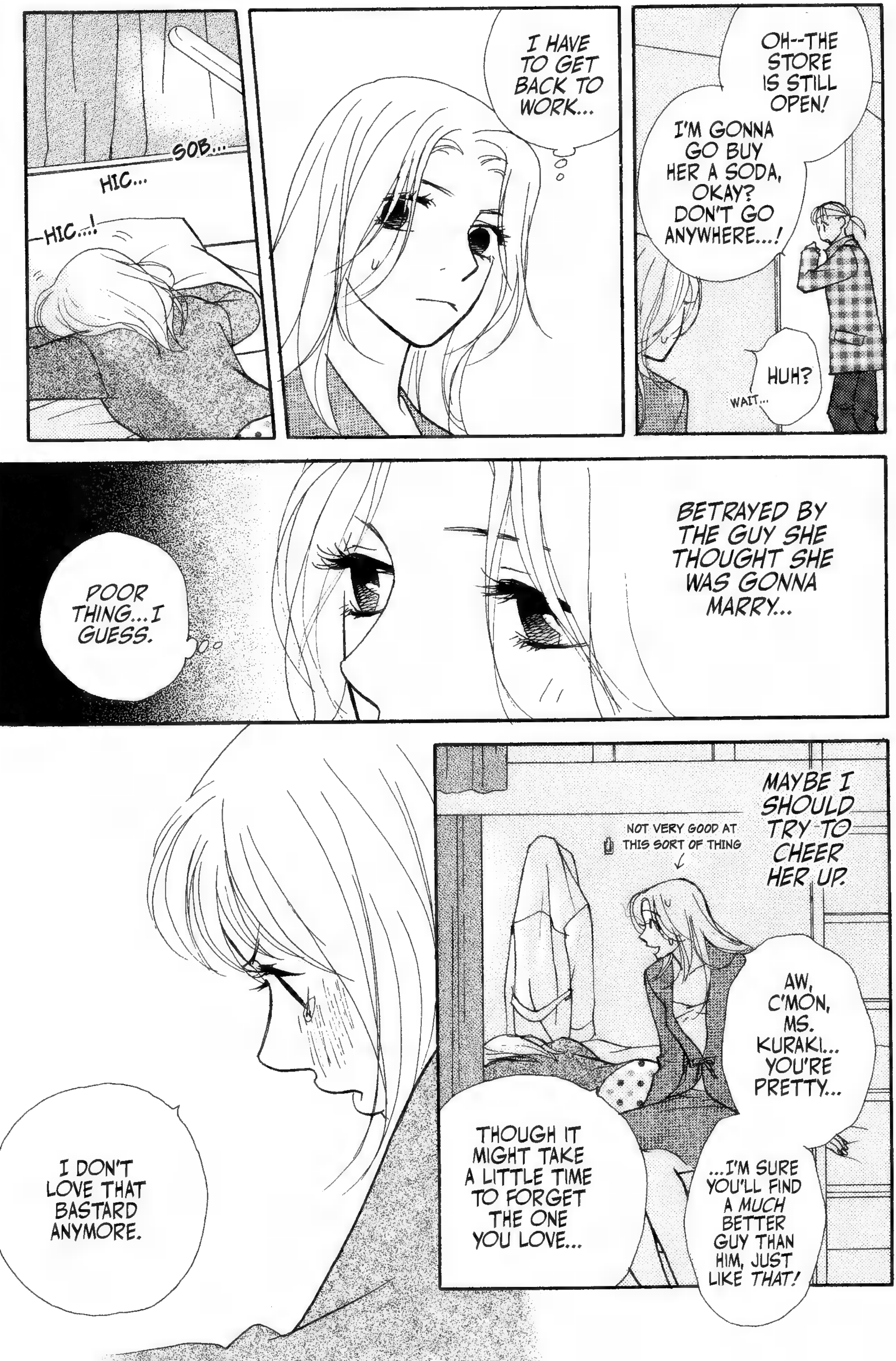
NO WAY... I GOT THEIR PERMISSION ON THE CONDITION OF ANONYMITY...AND THEY EVEN LET ME TAKE THEIR PICTURE...!
WELL...THE STORY IS ABOUT INFERTILITY, AND LIVING IN A SEXLESS RELATIONSHIP...IF YOU THINK THIS IS HARD ON US, IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE FOR *THEM*.
ANYWAY, THIS IS THE ONE THAT'S DUE TOMORROW.
I NEED YOU TO FINISH THE SECOND STORY BY THEN, SO WE CAN FILL THEIR SPOT.
SURE...NO PROBLEM.
MS. IWAYA...I CAN HELP YOU ORDER GRAPHS FOR THAT STORY, IF YOU...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME-- YOU HAVE YOUR OWN WORK TO DO, RIGHT, MR. ISHIDA?
BUT...
REALLY. I'M FINE.
キョロ
キョロ
UH... MOMO?
WELL, I'M GONNA BE GETTING HOME LATE TODAY... SO DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME.
WHISPERING
WHAT? DON'T CRY...IT'S NOT A DATE!
NO, I'M *NOT* GONNA EAT ANYTHING EXPENSIVE!
WHAT? THAT CAN OF CRAB MEAT IN THE FRIDGE? SURE, YOU CAN EAT IT.
SIGH...
!

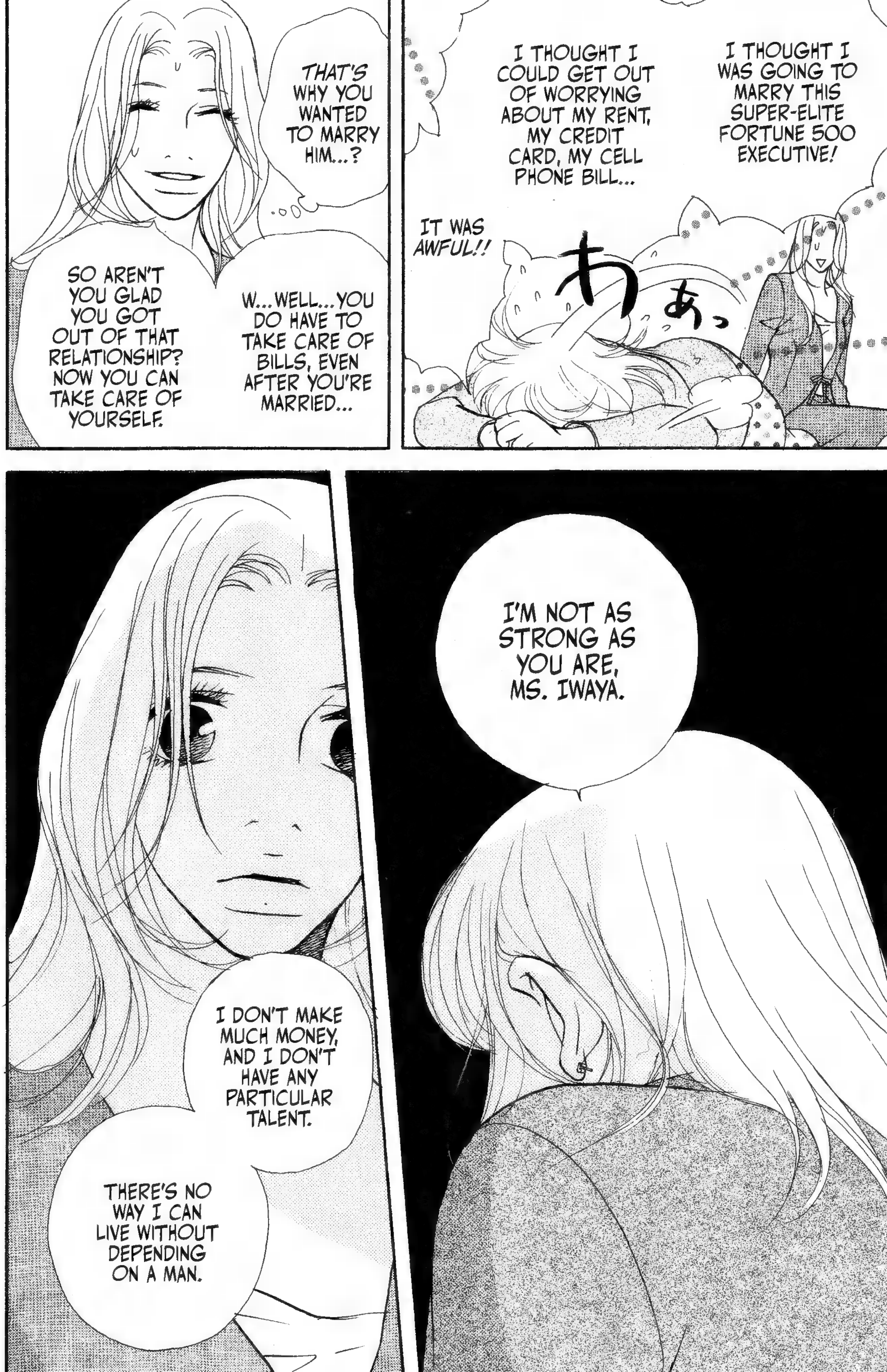

ダダダダ
げえ〜
ガチャ
SEE YOU LATER.
ニコッ
OH...OKAY, MS. IWAYA... SEE YOU TOMORROW...
パタン…
I PUKED...
...BLOOD... ♡


WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MY BODY?!
I'M SCARED...
ヨロッ…
MS. IWAYA?
新聞
SENPAI HASUMI...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK REALLY PALE...
PRETEND TO BE HELPLESS IN FRONT OF THE MAN YOU LOVE!
UH...
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN DEPEND ON HIM?
WHAT COULD HE POSSIBLY DO FOR YOU?

DO YOU WANT HIM TO WORRY ABOUT YOU?
DO YOU WANT HIM TO PITY YOU?
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SUCH A WORTHLESS LITTLE BITCH!
MS. IWAYA?
HELP ME.
SOMEONE.
DON'T WORRY... IT'S NOTHING.
MY FACE *DOES* LOOK PALER THAN USUAL WHEN I DON'T WEAR LIPSTICK, HUH?
10 3 9 4 8 7 6 5
MS. IWAYA? EXCUSE ME...
OH...MS. IKEHARA? YOU'RE HERE AWFULLY LATE...DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
NO...WELL, I WAS HAVING A FEW DRINKS AROUND THE CORNER...
...WITH MS. KURAKI...

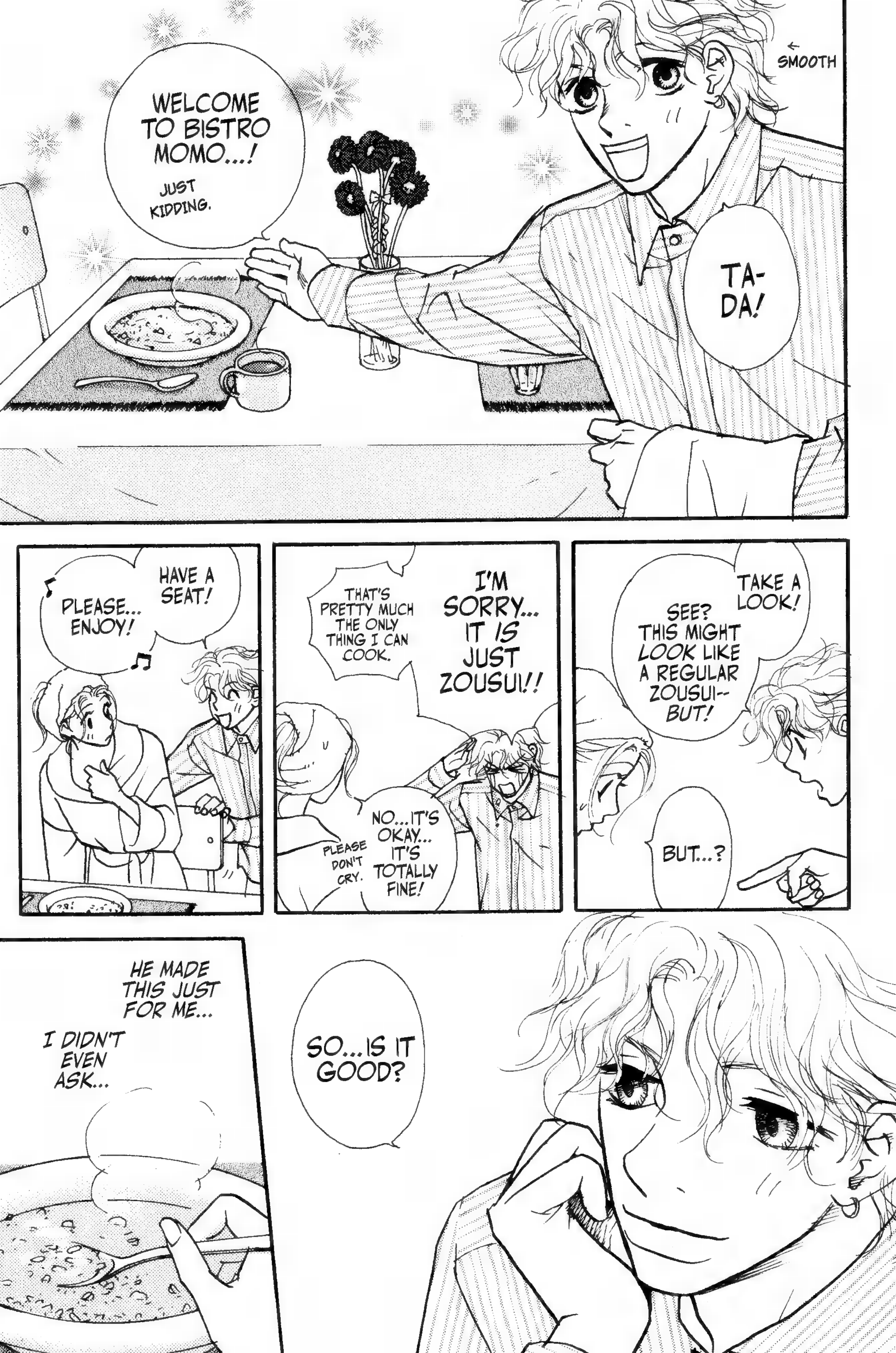

ずるずる
I'M SO SORRY TO INTRUPT YOUR WORK...!
SINCE I'M NOT FULL-TIME YET, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE TEMPORARY BEDROOM...
IT'S FINE... BUT JUST THIS TIME...
びくん
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. LEAVE ME ALONE.
I JUST WANT TO DIE! I'M GONNA KILL MYSELF RIGHT NOW!
KURAKI-CHAN, SHH! BE QUIET!
バタ
バタ
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!
WELL...IF THAT'S WHAT SHE REALLY WANTS...
M-MS. IWAYA?
SERIOUSLY... YOU'RE SCARING ME.
MS. KURAKI'S BOYFRIEND BROKE UP WITH HER.
SHE WAS SO EXCITED THEY WERE GETTING MARRIED, UNTIL YESTERDAY...
...WHEN HE SAID HE COULDN'T GET OVER HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND... AND THAT HE WAS GOING BACK TO HER.


OH--THE STORE IS STILL OPEN!
I'M GONNA GO BUY HER A SODA, OKAY? DON'T GO ANYWHERE...!
HUH?
WAIT...
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK...
SOB...
HIC...
HIC...!
BETRAYED BY THE GUY SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA MARRY...
POOR THING...I GUESS.
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TO CHEER HER UP.
NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS SORT OF THING
AW, C'MON, MS. KURAKI... YOU'RE PRETTY...
...I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND A MUCH BETTER GUY THAN HIM, JUST LIKE THAT!
THOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO FORGET THE ONE YOU LOVE...
I DON'T LOVE THAT BASTARD ANYMORE.


I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO MARRY THIS SUPER-ELITE FORTUNE 500 EXECUTIVE!
I THOUGHT I COULD GET OUT OF WORRYING ABOUT MY RENT, MY CREDIT CARD, MY CELL PHONE BILL...
IT WAS AWFUL!!
わあっ
THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED TO MARRY HIM...?
W...WELL...YOU DO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF BILLS, EVEN AFTER YOU'RE MARRIED...
SO AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU GOT OUT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP? NOW YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU ARE, MS. IWAYA.
I DON'T MAKE MUCH MONEY, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR TALENT.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LIVE WITHOUT DEPENDING ON A MAN.

ROUNDED, NARROW SHOULDERS.
WHAT MAN WOULDN'T WANT TO PROTECT A GIRL LIKE THAT?
BUT MARRIAGE IS JUST AN ILLUSION.
SOONER OR LATER, THEY ALWAYS REALIZE WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS HAPPINESS WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.
YOU, ME...
ALL OF US ARE LONELY.

...RE?
SUMIRE?
IT'S NOON. WAKE UP.
UHH...
...WHAT? NOON?!
OH, GOD...MY ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF?!
I STOPPED IT ON PURPOSE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO ACTUALLY BE AT WORK UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK, DO YOU?
GO--TAKE A SHOWER. NOW. GO.
BUT... WAIT...
I HAVE TO COOK...
IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
???
!



SMOOTH
TA-DA!
WELCOME TO BISTRO MOMO...!
JUST KIDDING.
TAKE A LOOK!
SEE? THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE A REGULAR ZOUSUI--BUT!
BUT...?
I'M SORRY... IT IS JUST ZOUSUI!!
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY THING I CAN COOK.
NO...IT'S OKAY... IT'S TOTALLY FINE!
PLEASE DON'T CRY.
HAVE A SEAT!
PLEASE... ENJOY!
SO...IS IT GOOD?
HE MADE THIS JUST FOR ME...
I DIDN'T EVEN ASK...

IT'S DELI-CIOUS...
OH...!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I CAN'T STOP CRYING.
......
LISTEN.
ONE SINGLE PERSON, LIVING WITH A PET...
...IS MUCH BETTER THAN LIVING ALONE... DON'T YOU THINK?

ANY MEAL YOU EAT ON ANY GIVEN DAY ONLY ENDS UP ON THE TABLE AFTER THE HARD WORK OF MANY OTHERS.
YOU DON'T NEED TO COUNT ME AS AN ACTUAL PERSON.
BUT PLEASE... DON'T EVER THINK YOU'RE ALONE.
THE HOUSE THAT I LIVE IN...SOME CONTRACTOR BUILT. AND THE CLOTHES THAT I WEAR, SOMEONE ELSE SEWED.
I TAKE TRAINS, RUN BY SOMEONE ELSE, TO GO TO WORK.
IT'S OBVIOUS... I DEPEND ON MANY PEOPLE.
EVERYONE IS LONELY.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO HELP EACH OTHER.

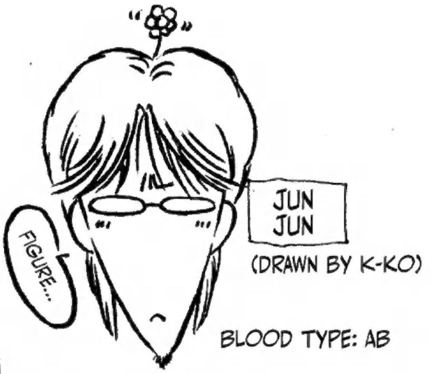
I REALLY DO DEPEND ON THIS KID... DON'T I?
AND...I CAN'T DENY IT ANYMORE.
HEH HEH...
FUNNY HOW THAT HAPPENED.
MOMO... YOU'RE SO SMALL, BUT YOUR HANDS ARE HUGE.
WHAT? YOU FIND THAT FUNNY?
I SURE DO.
AND HE CERTAINLY IS DEPENDABLE...

THE END

Go, go, SumiRangers!
COLORING BOOK VERSION
ONCE YOU BEAUTIFULLY COLOR THIS ILLUSTRATION, PLEASE DISPLAY IT PROUDLY ON YOUR WALL!
--YAYOI

INTRODUCING MY STAFF MEMBERS:

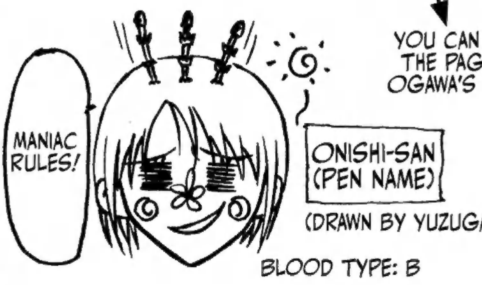
WITHOUT THESE FOLKS, *YOU'RE MY PET* WOULDN'T EVEN EXIST...THEIRS IS A THANKLESS TASK.



THE NO. 1 VETERAN AMONG ALL THE ASSISTANTS THAT WORK FOR OGAWA. NOT ONLY THAT--HE'S THE ONLY MALE STAFF MEMBER, AS WELL AS AN EXCELLENT CHEF NOWADAYS (ANYTHING HE COOKS IS DELICIOUS). A PRODUCER OF THE FIGURE FOUND ON THE BACK COVER PAGE.

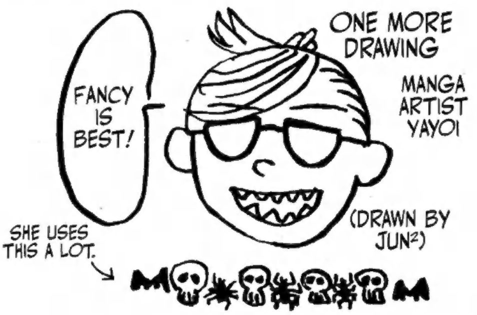
BUSY AND EXCELLENT ASSISTANT WHO ALSO WORKS FOR ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN WRITER. SHE'S GOOD AT DRAWING PERSPECTIVES OF BUILDINGS AND USING THE COMPUTER. SHE'S ALSO CREATED A HOMEPAGE FOR ASSISTANTS CALLED JAC.

YOU CAN LINK TO THE PAGE FROM OGAWA'S WEBSITE.



YOUNG AND LIVELY NEWCOMERS WHO JUST GRADUATED FROM PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL. THEY ARE CURRENTLY COHABITING TOGETHER--WAIT, THEY'RE JUST ROOMMATES. BUT THERE IS A RUMOR THAT YUZUGA-SAN COOKS AND FEEDS ONISHI-SAN (PEN NAME). THANKS TO THESE TWO NOISY GIRLS, WE NEVER GET BORED OR SLEEPY WHILE MAKING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON OUR MANGA.

...AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, MY HUSBAND, WHO SUPPORTS ME ALL THE TIME. THANK YOU SO MUCH...



AN APOLOGY:

AT THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME, I LEFT OUT MS. K. TADA AS ONE OF MY GRAPHIC ASSISTANTS. SORRY, KYOKO...

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M･ONISHI, H･YUGA

CHECK IT!

THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF YAYOI OGAWA.

EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP

HTTP://WWW.LINKCLUB.OR.JP/~ASASIN/

You're My Pet 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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